Thursday, May 24, 2012 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 37 / No. 165 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Jessica can make 'AI' history today

By Ruben V. Nepales
Los Angeles correspondent

LOS ANGELES—The "battle of the opposites" comes to a close today as viewers choose between the powerhouse singer and the quirky crooner in the season 11 finale of "American Idol."

Jessica Sanchez chose power ballads, while Phillip Phillips went with an indie vibe as the two divorce "Idol" finalists sang yesterday for the hearts and votes of America.

The two performed three songs: A choice by "Idol" creator Simon Fuller; their favorite of the season; and a new song that would be their potential debut single should they be crowned "American Idol."

Right after the show, many Filipino-Americans across the United States voted for Sanchez, who at 16 might yet

JESSICA/A4

"I HAVE NOTHING" is the song that could win everything for Jessica Sanchez when text and Internet voters select the 11th season's "American Idol." Jessica belted out the Whitney Houston song in the first of three numbers yesterday. The fate of Jessica and the only other finalist, Phillip Phillips, will be known today, 8 a.m. Manila time.

CJ nears judgment day

Enrile gives Corona until Friday to return to witness stand

DESPERATELY SEEKING JUSTICE The children of Jose Maria Basa III—Carmen, Eric, Ana, Francesca—hold a press conference at the Senate in defense of their father and to talk of the family feud that has hounded them the past 20 years. (Story on Page A1/1)

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

WITH MOST of the senator-judges having purportedly "made up their minds," the fate of Chief Justice Renato Corona in his impeachment trial will be known by early next week.

A day after the diabetic Corona unceremoniously left the witness stand purportedly prompted by a spell of dizziness due to low blood sugar, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday gave the Chief Justice until 2 p.m. tomorrow to return to the witness stand for the continuation of his testimony.

"We will grant you (the chance) to finish your evidence. After that, if you do not submit your evidence, we will consider the matter submitted on the record," Enrile, the presiding officer, told the defense panel on Day 41 of the impeachment trial.

Enrile set the oral arguments for both the defense and the prosecution on Monday, after which the court could immediately rule on whether to acquit or convict Corona over charges of betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution.

CJ WANA/A11

Basa children take up cudgels for their father • Cuevas denies CJ's 'walkout' was planned / A11

Docs rule out CJ's return in 48 hours

By Nina Calleja

DOCTORS monitoring the condition of Chief Justice Renato Corona fear a possible heart attack and are ruling out his return to the Senate impeachment tribunal in the next 48 hours to resume his testimony.

Corona, who is in the intensive care unit, was "awake and showing stable vital signs," according to a medical bulletin issued at 10 a.m. yesterday by Dr. Eugenio Jose Ramos, senior vice president in The Medical City in Pasig City, endocrinologist Dr. Michael Villa and cardiologist Dr. Mariano Almajar.

The 63-year-old Chief Justice was rushed to the hospital past 7 p.m. on Tuesday after complaining of shortness of breath, cold sweats, and

DOCS/A10

How CJ, wife stopped from leaving

By Michael Lim Ubac

"ARE YOU arresting me?" Chief Justice Renato C. Corona asked Senate sergeant-at-arms Jose Balajadia Jr. during a brief standoff triggered by Corona's sudden exit from the impeachment court at past 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

In an interview yesterday, Balajadia recounted the bedlam that broke out after Corona's three-hour testimony on Day 40 of his impeachment trial.

"Nasa isip niya, the Chief Justice of the Republic of the Philippines wishes to be excused," Corona had told the Senate tribunal at the end of his so-called opening statement that lasted three hours.

Amid applause, Corona then rose and left the session hall, surprising everyone, including his lead defense counsel, Serafin Cuevas, and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

Balajadia told the reporters that he was convinced that Corona and his wife, Cristina, had really intended to leave the Senate even without Enrile's permission.

"Naturally, this is a normal assumption. He's (already) in the exit area," observed Balajadia, a retired general.

After apologizing to the Chief Justice, Balajadia firmly told him that he

MORE CJ/A10

Solons won't call Corona's bluff / A11

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Obama, Romney locked in dead heat in race to White House / A25

For P-Noy, life is a beach after 2016

By Norman Bordadora

THERE is life after 2016.

And for President Aquino, most of it would be spent in beaches south of Metro Manila, the army and Palawan, where he hopes to take quick trips from his home province in Tarlac.

By then, he expects expressways connecting provinces north and south of the capital region to have been completed.

Mr. Aquino sees a significant economic advantage in having Metro Manila's NLEx-SLEx (North Luzon Expressway-South Luzon Ex-

MORE P-NOY/A4

92 China ships now in shoal; tensions up

By Tina G. Santos

THERE ARE now 92 Chinese ships at Panatag.

The Philippines accused China yesterday of flaring tensions anew by sending more gunship patrol and fishing vessels to Scarborough (Panatag) Shoal despite ongoing talks to resolve the two-month-old standoff.

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesperson Raul Hernandez said the number of Chinese vessels at Scarborough Shoal increased to 92 from 77 on Tuesday. They included four government ships and fishing and utility boats.

Hernandez said the Philippines had only two vessels in the area, which both countries claim.

Hernandez said the DFA handed Chinese Ambassador Ma Keqing a diplomatic note on Monday to protest the presence on that day of 77 Chinese vessels—five government ships, 16 fishing boats and 56 dinghies used to load fish or corals.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Hong Lei, yesterday said that nearly 100 Chinese boats or dinghies arrived at the shoal.

"The Philippine side has recently taken some provocative actions in the Huangyan Island waters, thus the Chinese side has adopted corresponding measures to strengthen management and control," Hong said, using China's name for Scarborough Shoal.

"To our knowledge, none there

ECHINA/A4

Panelag now a 'wag the dog' diversion, says study / A4

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/23	
11AM	16 13
4PM	4 17
9PM	3 11
SUERTRES 6/23	
11AM	7 0 3
4PM	3 9 4
9PM	9 5 6

FOUR DIGIT

4 0 8 7

MEGA 6/45 TO 6/49

3 17 27 29 30 32

P16,245,108.00

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

8 19 29 39 54 55

P32,326,844.40

Arrest warrant out for Delfin Lee

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—A local court has ordered the arrest of developer Delfin Lee, his son and three officers of Lee's Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp. for syndicated estafa in connection with the P7-billion "ghost borrowers" housing loan scandal.

LEE

The Lee father-and-son, Christina Supan, Cristina Salagan and lawyer Alex Alvarez were ordered arrested by Judge Maria Amelinda Feleo-Bautista of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 42 after the judge found probable cause in a syndicated estafa case filed against them in connection with Globe Asiatique's Sarwen housing projects in Bacolor and Mabalacat towns in Pampanga.

Bayan did not recommend any bail for the Globe Asiatique officers who were raped by several home buyers and the state-run Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) for allegedly conspiring in the irregular use of P7.83 billion worth of housing loans obtained by unqualified Pag-Ibig Fund members between 2009 and 2010, the accused "ghost borrowers" who bought houses in Globe Asiatique's Pampanga housing projects.

The decision came more than a month after the Department of Justice (DOJ), with approval from the Court of Appeals, lifted the ruse for syndicated estafa of the RTC here. It was ratified off to Bayan who received an hour of documents relating to the case.

Pag-Ibig president

The DOJ task force on securities and business scams, which recommended the filing of syndicated estafa charges against Lee et al, also referred to the Office of the Ombudsman for "appropriate investigation" complaints against Atty. Jo Rey Ramon Dalmilo, who was the Pag-Ibig president at the time of the Globe Asiatique loan fiascoes; Amina Pelkova, Teresa Gonzales, Fahad Alhasan and Wilma Flores for possible violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law.

In late April, Lee went to the Supreme Court to stop the DOJ from filing the syndicated estafa charges against him.

"To allow the confirmation of the criminal cases against him would undoubtedly cause serious and irreparable injury and damage to petitioner—damage which he or his business may no longer recover from," Lee's petition for review said.

Almost two years ago, several Pag-Ibig Fund employees blew the lid on the housing loan scam allegedly perpetrated by Globe Asiatique. They said Lee's company allegedly paid people to enroll themselves in Pag-Ibig Fund members and/or the so-called Special Housing Group programs to avail of housing loans.

Documents obtained by the Inquirer showed that Globe Asiatique took out P7.021 billion for 9,951 housing loan accounts from the Pag-Ibig Fund from March 2009 to August 2011. The amount exceeded the P500-million annual cap that Pag-Ibig grants accredited developers.

The houses, a source said, were not in the names of the "special buyers," or the people who were paid to take out the loans. The contracts and titles were supposed to be transferred to from the names of the real buyers.

This scheme was reportedly hidden because it was Globe Asiatique that collected the monthly amortization payments paid by the buyers. The scam was uncovered when many of the houses were found not to be occupied or were being used by other people and not the legit home buyers.

Double selling

"The issuance of the warrants of arrest against Delfin Lee and his co-accused just shows that the law is on the side of the ordinary workers duped by Globe Asiatique," said Vice President Jerome Bong, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council who also chairs the Pag-Ibig Fund.

"Globe Asiatique defrauded the ordinary workers who are contributors of Pag-Ibig Fund. The company defrauded hardworking citizens of Pampanga by selling property they already purchased legitimately to other buyers, a practice known as 'double selling,'" Bong said. —With Tina S. Santos

PRESIDENT Aquino congratulates Media Secretary Jerome Badoucas after he took his oath yesterday in Malacañang. (YAHOO.PH)

Growth rate on target, says new Neda chief

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE NEW National Economic Development Authority (Neda) chief expects economic growth for the first quarter of the year to be within the government's target range.

Neda Secretary Arsenio Balisacan told reporters in Malacañang yesterday that the government was losing the first quarter growth would be 5 percent to 6 percent.

"We hope every quarter is within that range," Balisacan said.

Balisacan took his oath of office before President Aquino in the Palace yesterday.

Told after the President was requesting a growth of 5.2 percent for the first quarter, Balisacan, a former dean of the University of the Philippines School of Economics, said: "It's around that. The private sector foresees it close to that."

Robust spending

He said the growth could be attributed to "quite positive" investments and exports as well as "quite robust" spending.

"As you have seen from the press releases of the various companies, the revenues in profits were all high rates in the past year," Balisacan said. "We hope that continued in the first quarter."

There was also no major calamity in the first three months of the year, Balisacan said.

He said that while the government started implementing its infrastructure projects early this year, it still needed to "make a big push" with these projects, as Thailand did 10 to 15 years ago.

He also said that the government's 7 percent to 8 percent economic growth target for this year was "doable" except that it needed to deal with "bottlenecks," such as building more infrastructure and improving transport.

As for inflation, Balisacan said this would be "quite tame" and be within the government's forecast of 3 percent to 5 percent.

No major shocks

"I'm not foreseeing any major shocks," Balisacan said, adding that world oil prices were falling.

Balisacan said he did not see the new rights inspection rules in China for Philippine banana exports affecting the country's economy much.

While banana is a "very important" industry in Mindanao, he said it makes up only a "small portion of the total value added" because the major sectors are rice, corn and coconut.

But if the standoff between the Philippines and China over Scarborough Shoal worsens, he said, the country will feel its impact on the economy.

"My position there is we really need to diversify," he said. "That has been our problem for a long time."

Balisacan said he would join a meeting between President Aquino and the business groups today for a discussion of the problem.

Court orders Padaca arrested

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has ordered the arrest of former Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca who is accused of allegedly misusing public funds for an agricultural program in her province.

Associate Justice Roland B. Jurado, who chairs the anti-graft court's 5th Division, signed the arrest warrant last Monday.

The court set Padaca's bail at P40,000 for the malversation of public funds case and P30,000 for the graft case.

Copies of the arrest warrants will be handed to the National Bureau of Investigation-Region 2 Office, the Isabela Philippine National Police-provincial command or the Region PNP chief, the Sandiganbayan said.

Last month, Padaca, a supporter of President Aquino, tried to stop the court from issuing an arrest warrant against her, saying the Ombudsman's indictment of her had no basis.

The Ombudsman concluded an investigation against Padaca based on a complaint filed against her and other provincial officials by former Isabela Rep. Santiago Kapunan.

Padaca was accused of licensing a nongovernment organization, the Kapatirang Kalipunan for Mentora Isabela and Mutliawa Luzon Foundation Inc. (KAMMFI), in the award of a P20-million poverty hybrid rice project.

The Ombudsman's conclusion of an investigation against Padaca based on a complaint filed against her and other provincial officials by former Isabela Rep. Santiago Kapunan.

PADACA

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The Ombudsman's conclusion of an investigation against Padaca based on a complaint filed against her and other provincial officials by former Isabela Rep. Santiago Kapunan.

DAR now sorting out Luisita beneficiaries' list

By Kristine L. Alave

THE DEPARTMENT of Agrarian Reform (DAR) yesterday started verifying the identities of thousands of Hacienda Luisita farmer-beneficiaries who have waited for decades to own a piece of the sugar estate that had been promised to them.

Hundreds of farmers swooped to the covered basketball court in where the DAR had included temporary offices for the interview sessions of the Hacienda Luisita workers included in the 1989 master list of employees and their relatives.

The workers, following the DAR's advice, brought with them identification cards and proof of kinship, in the case of the heirs of beneficiaries who had died. About 8,000 adult workers registered to be interviewed by DAR over a period of three weeks. The agency said it would be interviewing about 300 farmers daily.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Ed de los Reyes said the registration process would be smooth and tedious. Some of the target beneficiaries have died and left their claims to heirs and relatives, which complicates the procedure, he explained.

'Smoothly and quickly'

According to De los Reyes, the first day of the verification process went smoothly and quickly. "We set it at 30 minutes per interview, but many were finished quickly. We may have to adjust this a bit," he said in a phone interview.

De los Reyes said the agency has taken out advertisements in broadsheet and tabloid newspapers to reach potential beneficiaries who have moved out of Tarlac. "If they think that they have (valid) claims, they should present themselves to the nearest DAR office," he said.

The first day of the interview sessions came a day after impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona declared at his lawyer said that the campaign to remove him from the Supreme Court remained true the high court's decision to subdivision Hacienda Luisita, which is owned by the Cojuangco family of President Aquino.

Instead of relinquishing the land, the Cojuangco just took comfort in the fact that, under a scheme called the stock distribution option (SDO), which is allowed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL).

The SDO scheme was challenged by the hacienda farmers in the Supreme Court, after years of protracted legal battle, the high court recently ruled with finality that the land be distributed to the farmers.

The high court noted that the SDO implemented by the Cojuangcos was contrary to the spirit of the CARL.

The high court's decision gave the DAR the go-signal to distribute 4,500 hectares (most of the sugar estate to some 6,200 farmers who have worked on it for generations.

Meanwhile, the DAR chief said the agency has laid out the contract for the south of the Hacienda Luisita's Crossed lands.

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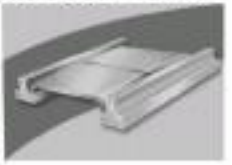

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Panatag row a 'wag the dog' diversion, says study

By Dorli C. Dumlao

COULD CHINA be blowing up its territorial issue with the Philippines over Scarborough Shoal to divert the Chinese people's attention away from more major political scandals currently rocking Asia's largest economy?

Leading local online stock brokerage COL Financial thinks so.

A research paper from the firm suggested that China—which is in the midst of potentially divisive scandals while in a transition to a new set of leaders—has never been interested in going to war against the Philippines.

Shoaal talks in Beijing between Philippine Secretary Albert Del Rosario and state-owned China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC), the COL Financial research said, showed that China was more interested in doing business in the Philippines, particularly in a couple oil and gas discovery at Recto Bank.

The paper, entitled "Beyond the Sea: Sinatra, Winters, Wags and Dogs" and dated May 21, disagreed with some perceptions that the Chinese were prone to war mongering and frothing.

The research alluded to a 1997 American movie "Wag the Dog" featuring Dustin Hoffman and Robert de Niro about how a Washington spin doctor concocted a fake war with Albania with the help of a Hollywood film producer in order to distract voters from a presidential sex scandal.

The COL Financial research noted that while election political, economic and military power was about to be transferred to the new leaders by November, the Chinese political and propaganda machinery was in full overdrive to promote the various virtues and strengths of the Chinese Communist Party.

"The party is set to unveil its projects on strength of stability and strength, with matching projection of Chinese political power, to assuage the Chinese public that they will all continue to be in good hands," the paper said.

But it did not help that two major scandals—one involving China at the moment, the paper said, referring to Chen Guangcheng affairs.

"Could it be that Beijinwogh was blown up to divert the attention of the public to these potentially divisive and antiparty scandals?" Nothing rallies a nation more than a territorial dispute, and it seems the Philippines—small, ill-equipped, no-hopers if attacking economically or militarily—is a good, convenient candidate for the diversion," the paper said.

The paper also said it was cute even that at the peak of the diplomatic and nasty publicity fight between the Philippines and China in the week of May 7 to 11, CNOOC invited Philippine to an oil investment meetings in Beijing to explore possible areas of cooperation between their companies.

"In case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing? Don't think so. Carrot and stick a little bit, C," the paper said.

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92 China ships now in shoal

From page A1

are about 20 Chinese fishing boats working in that area. The number is roughly the same (one) that is the case in the period of the previous years," Hong said.

"The way these fishing boats are working complies with the related Chinese laws and the fishing moratorium issued by the Chinese government," he added.

Hernandez said China ahead of China's fishing ban, Chinese vessels were observed fishing and collecting protected corals at the shoal.

The Philippines has separately requested its own ban on fishing in the area.

Seventh protest

Hernandez said the Philippines had filed a seventh diplomatic protest because of China's standing more recently on the shoal despite ongoing talks to resolve the dispute.

He said that at around 7 p.m. on Monday, there were five Chinese government vessels (CMS 71, CMS 84, FLEC 303, 310 and 2103 in the area, which were accompanied by 16 fishing boats (10 inside the lagoon and six outside), and 56 utility boats (27 inside the lagoon and 29 outside).

"Yesterday (Tuesday), there were still 16 Chinese fishing vessels and the number of utility boats went up to 78," Hernandez said.

He explained that utility boats were dinghies that helped the fishing boats collect their harvest of giant clams and corals by dredging.

Pullout demanded

Manila demanded an immediate pullout of the vessels, saying they violate Philippine sovereignty and a nonbinding Declaration of Conduct on the South China Sea signed by China and Southeast Asian countries.

"It is regrettable that these actions occurred in a time when China has been articulating for a denescalation of tensions and while the two sides have been discussing how to defuse the situation in the area," Hernandez added.

Both sides claim the outshoal, a horseshoe-shaped shoal, which is 220 kilometers (124 nautical miles) from Zambales province, the nearest Philippine town.

Hernandez said the Philippines stressed commitment to defusing the tensions in the area.

He said Assistant Foreign Secretary for Asia-Pacific Affairs Teresita Lazaro and Ambassador Ma were discussing the dispute in Manila while similar talks were going on in Beijing.

The Philippines has been taking the dispute to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), but China rejects international arbitration.

China also opposes the internationalization of other issues in its territorial disputes with the Philippines.

"The Philippines' attempt to draw any third party into interfering or intervening through whatever means in the matters is bound to further escalate the situation or internationalize the issues of the issue and will meet steadfast opposition from the Chinese side," Hong said.

Hong was referring to Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario's earlier statement that some countries were helping the Philippines establish a "minimum credible defense posture" by providing the country with patrol boats and military aircraft to complement its diplomatic initiatives in dealing with China.

According to Hong, "the Chinese side has been actively engaged in diplomatic consultation to urge the Philippine side to correct its wrongdoing and ease the situation, for the sake of normal growth of bilateral relations."

"China's principles and stance over the Huangyan Island issues are clear-cut," Hong said. "Huangyan Island has always been China's territory. China possesses indisputable sovereignty over the island. The Philippine side should concretely respect China's territorial sovereignty. At the same time, China's position of committing to diplomatic consultation to address the current situation remains unchanged."

Hernandez said "the plan [to establish a minimum credible defense posture] has been there for a long time."

"We have to substantiate our diplomatic capacity with a minimum credible defense posture ... that is what we're doing. We are trying to upgrade or modernize our military which has been neglected for several years," Hernandez said.

Help from Japan, Korea

Del Rosario earlier said that Japan would likely provide the country with 10 40-meter patrol boats under its official development aid and two choppers once in patrols.

He said South Korea had provided the Armed Forces of the Philippines equipment, such as tools and helmets, under a logistics agreement. "I understand our defense department is looking to possibly purchase aircraft from China," Del Rosario said.

Del Rosario last year said President Lee Myung-bak for aircraft, patrol boats and other hardware to help boost the Philippines' military capability in accordance with Chinese or disputed islands in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Lee's response was not disclosed, but he said Seoul would help Manila resolve its maritime problems.

Del Rosario said the Philippines could request to receive from Australia "a number of vessels for search and rescue, as well as significant training here and abroad for large numbers of our military" when a status of visiting forces agreement between the two countries is ratified this week.

Earlier, the military announced it would be getting a second Hamilton-class cutter from the United States.

Del Rosario has repeatedly said the country was determined to develop a "minimum credible defense by building a minimum credible defense posture."

He said that this year, the Philippines would receive $144.66 million (about P6.22-billion) in defense assistance from the United States.

He also said he had received $9 funding for a $55-million (about P2.3 billion) radar system for the Philippine Coast Guard.

The Chinese Embassy in Manila confirmed that the People's Liberation Army recently conducted a "regular training program" in the "West Pacific waters."

Citing the Information Office of China's Ministry of Defense, the embassy said, "The recent drill by a naval fleet of China's People's Liberation Army in the West Pacific waters is a regular training program included in its annual plan, not aimed at any particular country or target."

With a report from AP

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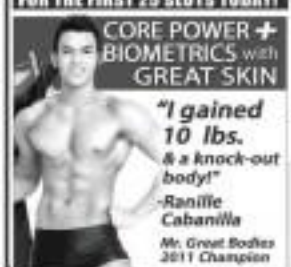

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For P-Noy, life is beach after beach after 2016

From page A1

passenger Connector Project and Clark–Clru PNCC Alignment that would build and connect highways from Batangas' southern Metro Manila to Subic and Clark.

"By 2016, I assume I'll be in Tarlac and if I want to go to a beach, Batangas or Aklanon would be more accessible or even taking flights to Boracay or Palawan," the President said after unveiling on the two projects in Makati City.

The Metro Pacific and Citra Metro, led by their respective executives Manuel V. Pangilinan and Ramon Ang, presented to the President separate reports that will connect cross northeast south of the national capital region.

Metro Pacific presented its Metro Link Project and the NLEx-SLEx Connector Road that an north-southbound 101.3-kilometer. The unfinished NLEx-SLEx connector project, however, is still up to a Series challenge, according to the government's procurement rules.

The Citra project that connects Alabang, Bicentennial Bridgehead to and to P23.4 billion.

The Metro Pacific connector project boasts of travel time of just 70 to 75 minutes between Clark and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) while Citra's alignment claims travel time of just 20 minutes between Alabang City and Balintawak.

Both projects are expected to be completed before President Aquino's term ends in 2016.

'Quite significant'

The President described the economic benefits of the two projects "as quite significant."

Mr. Aquino cited increased trading activities such as those of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao with Asean countries.

"They're setting up in Tarlac by Coach," he said. "Coach is sending their other manufacturers to set up in the vicinity. The same company is setting up for Uniqlo in Subic. There are a lot of similar jobs for Clark."

"Before now, when you have to stop six of these and you go by boats—and it's a Manila port—you have to contend with those long Edsa and that adds a significant amount of travel time. If public petitioner to your just-in-time deliveries and time means also the additional overhead within the NCR," he added.

The President said the projects "facilitate the whole process."

President Aquino said that connector from north–south of Metro Manila was took an hour and 45 minutes.

"There are times when you're unlucky and you get caught up in that one hour. Your two hours would only take you through the straight of the NCR," he said.

"So, the projects facilitate the movement of goods, services and people and they also enhances the connectivity between Subic and Clark. The expansion plans for our gateways will involve the 4.5 kilometer," he added.

Transportation Secretary Manuel Roxas II, who facilitated the presentation of the two proposals to President Aquino, said the two projects "are being undertaken independently and complementarily."

"We don't re-peat any hostile, in any major delays or the approval/granting process. It's already quite ripe so we deemed it proper to present these to the President so this would no longer be just private. It could definitely happen," Roxas said.

Roxas said the projects also addressed President Aquino's instructions for a way to go about the delivery of goods despite the back log in Metro Manila.

"Right now, the trucks can only have deliveries by nighttime. So, the deliveries of the manufacturing sector can also only be done at night," Roxas said.

He said that with the added capacity, the sector could go about its manufacturing and its deliveries for 24 hours, seven days a week.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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Solon denies being cause of breakup

BACOLOD CITY—Rep. Anthony Golez Golez Jr. today denied being the cause of the breakup of the marriage of Sen. Agaliton "Bobi" Pimentel III and Jovel Hilly Lobaton.

"I categorically deny having anything to do with the breakup of a relationship," Golez said in a text message.

He explained that he had been working with Lobaton in the implementation of several projects.

"We have been implementing different advocacies that are very important to the people of Bacolod, most especially the children and the needy," Golez said.

He also called on people to respect the privacy of Pimentel and Lobaton, who he said were undergoing a difficult time.

"Let's pray for them and with them the very best as they go on their separate ways," Golez said.

In an emailed statement to reporters on Tuesday night, Pimentel announced his separation from Lobaton, his wife of almost 12 years. They have two sons.

The senator said he and his wife have been living separately since November 2011.

He explained that he had tried to resolve their differences for the sake of their two children but was unable to do so. — Cecille Suerte Felipe, Inquirer Visayas

Search for 2 missing pilots abandoned

THE PHILIPPINE Coast Guard (PCG) has ended the search for two missing Philippine Air Force (PAF) pilots whose plane crashed off Masinloc, Zambales, last week.

But while the earlier search was terminated yesterday, the entire international search for the Coast Guard is operating all passing vessels in the area to keep an eye out for possible survivors or related to pilots and would still be released every day, said PCG spokesperson Lt. Cmdr. Algier Nicdao said.

"There's no sign of the two pilots and no sign of the plane. It's been a long while that they haven't been located. There's little chance that something will be seen on the sea. [So] we are planned to we're relying on dissemination of information to coastal barangays and coordination with fishermen," he said in a report.

Nicdao also said the PCG had informed the Armed Forces of its decision to terminate the search. He said they had no idea if the AFP had also ended its own search.

The PAF training craft, an SF-260 TP Warrior plane, was on a proficiency flight from Clark Air Base in Angeles to Subic Bay when it crashed around 2:00 p.m. Friday.

The AFP identified the missing pilots as Maj. Neil Tamonang and Lt. Michael Aragon.

A report said that fishermen from Botolan had heard a several booms first in the vicinity of the crash site on Fortune Isle, a rocky islet near Masinloc. Other fishermen also noticed over a half-top sank, bodies but not and a plane soon believed to have come from the crashed aircraft. — Jerome Aning

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Malaysian tells of ordeal as Abu Sayyaf hostage

JOLO (Sulu), Philippines—A Malaysian garlic trader held captive by suspected Abu Sayyaf militants for a year in the southern Philippines says he saw group members as young as 10 toddling around the rebels' camp in the impoverished region.

Mazarudin Hadi's account to an interview with The Associated Press gives a rare glimpse into the operations of the al-Qaida-linked militant group, blamed for many ransom kidnappings, bomb attacks and beheadings over more than two decades.

It also details an ordeal that started in May of last year when masked gunmen abducted Mazarudin in Jolo, sweeping him to hideouts on other islands over the following 12 months. He escaped at one point and hid in a mangrove, only to return to his kidnappers out of hunger—"I felt like I was on the verge of dying." He finally escaped to safety two weeks ago.

"I saw teenagers as young as 10 strolling around in the villages with M16 rifles and pistols," Mazarudin said in a small, run-down home just north of Kuala Lumpur, where he lives with his wife, six children and parents near a palm oil plantation.

"Sometimes they practiced shooting in the jungle and seemed skilled in handling the weapons," he said, adding that he believed they were Abu Sayyaf members.

Mazarudin said he saw only light weapons and machetes among his captors. He was mainly held indoors and did not know who the Abu Sayyaf leaders were. Mazarudin said he rarely saw regular villagers, but his captors for long stretches in various places indicated the militants still had the tacit support of communities in the region.

"I told them many times that I am not a rich man but they wanted money. They said they are poor and oppressed by their government but (I believe) as Muslims, they shouldn't do such thing," he said.

Mazarudin, a former truck driver, apparently went to Jolo to obtain goods collected by villagers, though he declined to elaborate about his business. Trading in pirated, considered to be endangered, has been banned in the country.

He was sleeping in a friend's house one night when gunmen stormed in and took him. He was handcuffed and forced to walk for hours in the dark to a village in the jungle, where he was kept in a hut. His captors removed his handcuffs after two weeks and fed him vegetables and sometimes fried rice.

After four months, Mazarudin said he heard bombing sounds from afar. He was taken by speedboat to a fishing village on another island and held in a bamboo house on stilts near the sea.

But knowing his family couldn't afford what his captors said was a ransom of P1 million ($110,000), Mazarudin sneaked out early one morning and ran as fast as he could.

He hid in a mangrove swamp, trying to avoid snakes and eating raw snails and mud crabs to survive.

"After a month, I felt like I was on the verge of dying. I was very weak and had little energy left. So I surrendered myself. It was better than starving to die alone in the swamp," he said.

Back in the village, he was surprised to see another hostage as the house and later found out it was a Malaysian ethnic Chinese fish trader. They were later joined by a third captive—Reju Kulass Unval from India—but were allowed to speak to each other only after a few weeks.

Reju told Mazarudin he was abducted while entering his wife's hometown in Indo province. He later said they are trying to verify intelligence reports that Unval might have been killed—but after a ransom was paid.

The three men were moved to a swamp area after the military launched almost a periodic mini operation by Philippine troops. Guarded by eight gunmen, they camped there for weeks before returning to the village.

Mazarudin was later taken to another island while the other two captives remained behind. After several weeks, he was brought back to Jolo to another secluded hillside village, where he escaped for the second time.

The gunmen pursued him for hours, firing warning shots into the air and furiously calling out for him. He eluded them, trekking for three days on a rubber boat to Indah.

Last week, Mazarudin flew back to Kuala Lumpur for a tearful family reunion.

"This experience has made me a better man but I still never return to the Philippines again," he said. AP

"WHITE MAN WITH GUITAR" Philip Phillips (above) is by no means alone in the field of American Idol, but those fans from Samal, Bataan, hometown of the mother of Jessica Sanchez, are abuzz for their "Idol" pageq.

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Jessica can make 'Al' history

From page A1

make it as the youngest and the first contestant of Asian descent to win in the popular singing competition.

Sanchez's mother Editha Rogay is a Filipino married to Mexican-American Gilbert Sanchez, a member of the US Army.

Before an estimated audience of 7,000 at Nokia Theater, Sanchez opened round one of her showdown with Phillips with a powerful rendition of Whitney Houston's "I Have Nothing." Phillips followed with his E. King's "Stand By Me." Two of the judges, Jennifer Lopez and Randy Jackson, declared Sanchez as the victor in round one.

Standing ovation for Phillips

In round two, after Sanchez's rendition of Celine Dion's "The Prayer" and Phillips' take on Billy Joel's "Moving Out," Steven Tyler went for Sanchez, Lopez for Phillips and Jackson for both.

In the final round, the judges liked Sanchez's performance but not the pop ballad "Change Nothing." Phillips' song "Home" — a song that mixed the style of folk-rock band Mumford and Sons with Neil Sinnon and featured a marching band...valiant earned him the night's only standing ovation from the raise judges.

"That's your best performance of the night. That was amazing," said Jackson. "You were perfect tonight, and I think you are the man," said Tyler.

Lopez, however, said the contest "was tough one. It's like a battle of the opposites."

More FilAms challenged

The judges' apparent endorsement of Phillips in the final round may have challenged more FilAms to vote for Sanchez and to more aggressively encourage families and friends to cast their votes.

Saturday, Pantbook was abuzz with tips on optimum voting. Here's a voice for the small girl with a powerful voice from Chula Vista, California.

FilAms hosted voting parties in their homes and the social or meeting rooms of their condominiums and apartments.

With a father who is Latino, Sanchez also drew support from the Mexican-American community. Many pundits predict that what was going against Sanchez was the "SICOG" (White Guy With Guitar) syndrome, which saw the triumph of controversy like Scotty McCreery, Lee DeWyze, Kris Allen and David Cook in recent years.

After the showdown, Sanchez and Phillips appeared alternate backstage as they fielded questions from the media.

Sanchez, sexually composed onstage when she sings, appeared the teenager that she is. "I feel like we are just having fun right now...since tonight," she said.

Sanchez, asked to clarify that statement, answered, "Of course we want to win. He, both has gone this far (as a 16-year-old)."

She described her rival "as goofy and funny" but "an amazing artist."

She gave this message to her Filipino supporters: "I love you. Thank you for your support".

Talent, not ethnicity

On the eve of the "Idol" season finale, teammates of Sanchez's mother in Samal, Bataan, were beaming with excitement and were hoping that talent, not ethnicity would be the deciding factor in the popular singing competition for United States.

"We're already in the 21st century. What matters is that you have talent. It doesn't matter whether you're Oriental or black or Latino," said Mayor Genoveva dela Fuente.

Dela Fuente said while finalist Phillip Phillips is a good singer and has the potential, she believes Sanchez would be named the next "Idol."

"The girls love (Phillip) but Jessica is more versatile. She can sing anything. She has the X factor," she said.

Early yesterday, young people initiated a street dancing activity followed by a prayer rally in Samal's covered court at 8 a.m. A motorcade also went around the town of Orani, Samal and Abucay.

"We did this to invite the community to join us in launching the showdown of Jessica and Phillip on the finale. It was also done to show that there's unity not just in Samal, but in the entire province of Bataan," she said.

Dela Fuente said cable television provider Digital sponsored the viewing of yesterday's performance episode and today's live finale.

'Hotbed of insurgency'

Before Samal shot to the nation's consciousness because of Sanchez's "Idol" stint, Dela Fuente said the town was a "hotbed of insurgency" in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"But slowly order was made, and this has continued to this day. Our constituents are slowly trusting the government again. We're seeing the light of progress," she said.

Dela Fuente said Sanchez's inclusion in the competition's finals had brought townsfolk together and inspired them to unite.

Dela Fuente said Bataan mayors would invite Sanchez to visit the province after her "Idol" stint. "Samakdoo are discussing on how to name honor...It's going to be a big carnival event," she said.

"But whatever happens, Jessica is already a winner. Nothing will change. If she comes here, she'll be welcomed with a huge homecoming," Dela Fuente added.

Judges' impact limited

But the judges' impact is limited to perennially swaying audience votes by phone, text and online after the show yesterday. Results will be announced at the end of a nine-studded two hour finale today.

Based on social media buzz and Twitter postings going into Tuesday's finale, Sanchez had a 17 percent lead in Yahoo! search bite, the Internet search engine said.

She also garnered 46 percent more mentions in social media than Phillips, according to a survey by analytics company Crimson Hexagon.

But Phillips, whose goofball humor has charmed millions of young female viewers, has never been in "Idol's" bottom three.

Sanchez, who is sometimes criticized for failing to connect emotionally with her lyrics, was noted by the judges from elimination in April after earning homers in the public vote.

Sympathy vote

Sanchez has thousands of supporters in the Philippines, while Phillips has won sympathy for a kidney problem that has plagued his health during the show. "Heal Brother Phillip" read one poster in yesterday's audience.

This year's winner will receive a generous recording contract, putting him or her on a potential road to the stardom enjoyed by early champions Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood.

But more recent winners have fared less well and audiences for "American Idol" have fallen by 23 percent to an average 19.2 million viewers.

The season's grand finale will be broadcast live in the Philippines today (Thursday) at 8 a.m. on ETC and Star World, with replays at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on ETC. With reports from Robert Kimmgo, Inquirer Central Luzon and Reuters

FILAMERICANS show their support for Jessica Sanchez in front of Staples Center in Los Angeles where she won "Idol" finalist's mate their last stand.

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Palace: CJ on the brink of conviction

By Norman Bordadora

I HELP Justice Renato Corona is "on the brink of conviction," Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said today after the impeached magistrate walked out of his trial without being excused by the Senate impeachment court.

Ronald Llamas, presidential adviser on political affairs, also took exception to Corona's claim that he held a considerable influence on Mr Aquino and that his fellow colleagues were also willing to take over the government.

"What he refuses to accept is that he stands on the brink of conviction, and possibly further prosecution because of his own actions," Llamas said in a text message to the Inquirer.

"While I suppose it should be finished, that he attributed so much influence to me, which is so untrue, the obvious motivation behind that statement is to once again attribute the dire straits he finds himself in to a supposed conspiracy," he added.

Undersecretary Abigail Valte, Presidential Aquino's deputy spokesperson, expressed confidence in the prosecution evidence.

"We remain firm that Chief Justice Corona failed to overcome all the evidence against him in his opening speech," Valte said in a text message to reporters.

"Nonetheless, we will not let it be subsists himself to cross-examination at the trial will come out," she added.

Truth lack dawns

Malacañang didn't directly comment on Corona's dare for Sen. Franklin Drilon and the 188 House members who signed the impeachment complaint to sign a waiver of their rights under the bank secrecy law before the allowing scrutiny of his own bank accounts particularly his dollar deposits.

Asked about the administration's reaction to Corona's challenge, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said, "We expected the Chief Justice to be given examined yesterday on the truth will come out but instead the truth suffered a lock down."

Uncorroborated testimony

Prosecution spokesperson said they were waiting their right to cross-examine Corona because they were confident they have presented enough evidence to convict him, particularly on their charge he had $12 million to $11 million in bank accounts.

But Sonny Angara said: "The only evidence presented by the defense on the dollar accounts are what can be called self-serving and uncorroborated testimony. It is self-serving and not supported by any document or any witness testimony."

But the minority bloc in the House believes Corona will be acquitted in view of the strong influence of the bloc voting with group group, Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), on the senator-judges who are either seeking reelection or whose kin are running for office in the 2013 midterm elections.

"We expect the Chief Justice to handle the Senate trial exactly because the INC is on his side. The senator-judges cannot ignore the power and influence of the INC in the elections," said House Minority Leader Danilo Ramos in an interview with reporters.

No choice but resign

Bonis Libanan, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, called on Corona to resort to the witness stand.

"If he will willfully defy the Senate, he should bear resign. He has no other choice because he would then have forgone the embodiment of the rule of law," Libanan said in an interview.

With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Till C. Cabacungan and Lolito S. Salamero

IN THE KNOW

HYPOGLYCEMIA occurs when the blood glucose drops below normal levels.

Sharon, a form of sugar it absorbs into the bloodstream from food as the body's source of energy.

When it is used up too quickly, or when it is released into the bloodstream too slowly, the body's blood glucose may fall. This action prompts the liver to produce and release glucose to compensate and bring the blood glucose level back to normal.

A hypoglycemic episode happens when the blood glucose does not rebound to normal levels.

Blood glucose below 60 mg/dl, is considered low.

Among the signs of hypoglycemia are hunger, weakness and nausea. A person experiencing hypoglycemia may also feel dizzy, anxious and have difficulty in speaking.

Among people with diabetes, hypoglycemia may be triggered by skipping meals or taking medicines at the wrong time. Engaging in strenuous activities and drinking alcohol may also result in hypoglycemia.

Hypoglycemia may be treated quickly by eating or drinking glucose-rich food. The best options are sugars absorbed into the bloodstream quickly, such as four ounces of orange juice, six ounces of regular soda, five to seven hard candies, or two to five glucose tablets.

It will unfortunately, hypoglycemia may get worse and lead to seizures, coma or death.

A 2008 study by the UE Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center said hypoglycemia among type 2 diabetics may be a risk factor for a person's heart attack or stroke.

Preliminary results of the study, among 1,791 US veterans, found that patients who had become severely hypoglycemic in the past three months were two or three times more likely to die within a heart attack, stroke or death. *Lawrence Hi Bicmas, Inquirer Research*

Sources: American Diabetes Association, Johns Hopkins Health Alerts, National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse

Docs rule out CJ's return in 48 hours

From page A1

light headedness.

Hooked to cardiac monitoring devices in the ICU, Corona was considered a high-risk patient due to his present state.

"His kidney functions poorly. He had two heart bypass surgeries in 1999 and 2008. He had a hypothyroidism (Hashimoto) along with his complaints of shortness of breath. (There is) a possibility of an acute coronary event or heart attack," Ramos explained.

Those were the main reasons the Chief Justice was moved to the ICU around 1 a.m. yesterday.

"At the medical side, it is prudent to keep him there [at the ICU] for 48 hours, ... to watch and for (them) to allow him to go to the Senate trial," Ramos told reporters.

Diabetic for past 20 yrs

Corona has been a diabetic for the past 20 years, Ramos said, and has been on daily insulin, with complications involving both kidneys and the heart.

Ramos said hypoglycemia, or low level of low blood sugar, could have triggered Corona's heart problems since he was unable to take his lunch on Tuesday before he appeared at the impeachment trial.

The diabetic also caused his kidney problems which contributed to the rise of the "Troponin T level," which according to Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez, led to the doctors' diagnosis of a "possible heart attack."

Aside from Corona being confined for although an elevated Troponin was an indication of a heart attack, in Corona's case, the kidney problem was the considering factor.

Ramos said there was no sign that Corona had a heart attack but upon their observation, his heart does not function normally. Corona was allowed to eat and intravenous fluids were not ordered to him.

Ramos also was being notified in case something happened," Ramos said.

His blood sugar, on the other hand, had stabilized as of Wednesday morning. "After taking meds and insulin, we consulted because his blood sugar is high so he is now under control, which is now 120," said endocrinologist Michael Villa.

Team of Senate docs

Ramos said Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile sent a trusted Senate doctor to the hospital and was allowed to check on Corona's condition.

Doctors at The Medical City are set to issue another medical bulletin on Thursday afternoon which the presentation of Corona's family.

Supreme Court employees yesterday held a Mass to pray for the ailing chief's recovery. Corona. "They won't be able to put down a good trust. That's not

Only 3 of 189 take up Corona's challenge

By Til C. Cabacungan

ONLY three out of the 188 members of the House of Representatives who signed the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Renato Corona have so far agreed to take formally challenge to sign a waiver authorizing their dollar and peso bank deposits.

Pangasinan Rep. Rimi Co, pangan, ACT Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio, and Kalinga party-list Rep. Allyad Bibo Bibiad have conveyed to the media their plan to take up Corona's dare.

"If you have nothing to hide, there should be no problem," said Tinio.

"This constitutes good faith on my part and further proves that I am not hiding anything. It is my hope that the Chief Justice himself would make good on his stand for transparency and public accountability by executing his waiver without conditions and submitting himself to cross-examination by the prosecution," said Bibiad in a statement.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, Gonzalo Duenas and four members of the minority bloc who did not sign the impeachment would also sign a waiver on their bank deposits if the 189 including Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas, challenged by Corona would open up their bank accounts.

Surigao Rep. Philip Pichay, a minority member, said he would gladly sign the waiver "even if only the 188th cited Chief Corona [referring to Drilon]" would sign his.

'Walkout prelude to rejection'

By Christian V. Esguerra

DESPITE his medical condition, Chief Justice Renato Corona got time yesterday from Senators Francis Pangilinan and Franklin Drilon, especially following his "walkout" the impeachment court, to sign a waiver on their foreign currency deposits.

Pangilinan yesterday said Corona's decision to leave the witness stand without being formally discharged was a "prelude to rejecting an adverse ruling" by the impeachment court.

"My sense is that in the event of an unfavorable ruling, he will bring the matter to the Supreme Court despite the clear constitutional provision that says the senate has the sole power to try and decide the case," he said in a text message.

"He will insist on the Supreme Court having power to overturn a decision of the impeachment court," he said.

Drilon was enraged by Corona's move to sign a waiver on his dollar accounts on the condition that Drilon and all the House members who signed the impeachment complaint against him would do the same.

"I will not fall into his trap. I will not go down to his level. He is pathetic!" Drilon said in a statement.

How CJ, wife stopped . . .

From page A1

could not just leave the Senate without being officially discharged from the witness stand.

Cristina asked him, "Is the material law?"

Lockdown

"I did not answer back," said Salvador, who caught up with the Coronas in the hallway behind the session hall, which is located on the second floor, after Enrile had ordered a lockdown.

The narrow hallway, which is usually off limits to the public, leads directly to the senators' lounge and connects to a secret passage to the senators' parking area in the basement.

A phalanx of about 10 Supreme Court security personnel, along with a group of journalists, waited at both ends of the Coronas couple as they headed for the exit.

Salvador said four members of his staff assigned to protect Corona blocked the couple and he hurried his way toward the Chief Justice.

"I signed [before security] people. I wanted to show evidence ... while the SC security people were pushing and shoving everyone inside them," he said.

Upon seeing him, Corona told Salvador, "Ikaw pala yan" (So it was you), Salvador said. Solicitor General Francisco Chavez and Associate Justice Roberto Abad also witnessed the incident.

No way Jose

A recumbent chair was brought out for Corona who was then taken to the Senate clinic where he was provided with a wheelchair. His lawyers later said that Corona, a diabetic, had a bout of hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar, and had to leave the Senate without it.

Salvador said he later reported to Enrile in the Senator's lounge. The Senate President was forming mad as he confronted Corona for Corona's surprise walkout. Senator Jinggoy Estrada IV was overheard telling Enrile and the other senators that the walkout was "planned."

He said there was "no way" Corona could have left the Senate premises. "He can't do that ... security can't just do that." The Senator had declared

'Heightened security' that day, said Salvador, adding that security protocols were in place for any emergency.

Salvador said that he had reported to Enrile that the Chief Justice's official car and security convoy were prepared to which Corona away. But he said that, even if he managed to reach the parking area, he would not be able to leave.

"The road may inside the parking area for a long time, but we will ask him to stop the engine because of carbon monoxide (gathering)."

Elsewhere

Interviews conducted by reporters after the Inquirer's bureau showed Corona's abrupt exit was regarded either as an allusion to the senate tribunal or was prompted by his poor health.

In Sta. Cruz, Marinduque, Rep. Lord Allan Velasco said the walkout was unedified for but the challenge to Associate Drilon and the 188 congressmen must be given consideration. "Transparency among elected officials is a must for next year's elections," he said.

Judge Joel Tuliao, Legazpi City executive judge, said: "It wasn't a walkout. He hadn't failed him."

Pedrito Salazo, chair of the Batangas Chamber of Commerce, said Corona could be the scapegoat of those in Batangas and that "maybe he really was feeling bad."

People not impressed

Leo Fuentes, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern Tagalog, said the walkout showed Corona's contempt attitude on the trial.

"There are a lot of other pressing issues like oil price and pronouncement of hospitals, that are being left behind because of Corona's trial," he said.

Fr. Robert Reyes is not impressed. What he did was an appeal to the emotions, not an appeal to the evidence to deliver work."

In Consolmone, lawyer Romulo Sison said Corona's testimony must be expunged. With reports from Harold Rose Quevedo, Abar Arguelles, Marvinel Elnas, Reynan Quesoya, Juan Escandor Jr. and Sophie T. Mendez Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Cuevas denies Corona's 'walkout' was planned

By Marlon Ramos

FORMER Supreme Court Justice Serafin Cuevas said yesterday he disagreed with the abrupt departure of Chief Justice Renato Corona from the witness stand and dismissed as "lies" media reports he had quit in loud defiance instead.

Speaking with reporters yesterday Cuevas admitted that he had offered to resign a few weeks into the impeachment trial, which began June 16, over a "conflict of opinion" with other members of Corona's legal team. He said Corona rejected his resignation.

"That's not true," he said of the two messages circulating that he had resigned from Corona's legal team after Tuesday's dramatic events in the senate tribunal.

"Sometimes I feel bad when we have a conflict of opinion. So I told the Chief Justice that it would be best if he would allow me to resign because he no longer needs me," Cuevas said. He said such time his resignation was rejected.

Cuevas sought to dispel speculation that Corona, who was expected to have suffered a stroke during his three-hour testimony on Tuesday, "faked his illness."

"If you want, you can go and see him in the hospital as you can check his real condition," Cuevas said.

Surprised

He said he honestly believed that the surprise exit was not planned. "Glad I knocked off that supposed plan. I would not allow my imprisonment to cut kind of relay because that's tantamount to cutting. I would rather resign or withdraw from the case," he stressed. "I would not let my credentials be destroyed."

Cuevas said he himself "did not like" the way the Chief Justice left without being discharged by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

"I was surprised that he was already gone when I was still making a manifestation to continue with the direct examination," Cuevas said. "What I actually expected was for the Chief Justice to be heard and insist.

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CJ nears judgment day

From page A1

"Me, will render a decision thereafter or maybe, at the very latest, on Tuesday. So ordered," said Enrile, who made it clear that the ruling could no longer be reconsidered.

Under the rules, the defense and the prosecution would each be given one hour for the next argument.

Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III said Enrile's unique ruling could derail any speakers each and every time they're allotted to them "to say your wish."

14 senators to convict

On judgment day, Enrile said each of the 23 senator-judges would be asked about his or her decision in alphabetical order. Only a two-thirds majority or 16 votes is required to convict.

"I think majority of the senator-judges have already made up their minds," Senator Pimentel told reporters after yesterday's trial, which lasted for only around 10 minutes. "I already know what my decision will be."

Corona, a longtime diabetic with two bypass surgeries in the past, was still monitored at the intensive care unit of The Medical City in Pasig City due to the "hyperglycemic episode" he suffered soon after delivering a three-hour "opening statement" on Tuesday.

The Chief Justice left the witness stand in a wheelchair, but was formally discharged, angering a number of senators, including Enrile who immediately ordered the sergeant at arms to lock the doors of the Senate.

Corona's "walkout" had sparked speculation that he was dead-line for his chief magistrate's appearance, some senators said.

"There's been speculation about whether it's stallcon or not. But senator-judges don't think that way. It can never be determined if a case is sub judice more. It's more in keeping with the schedule. There's no reason for us to change the schedule," Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said.

Enrile abandons threat

Enrile appeared to have to extend his position when he announced that he would allow Corona's opening statement on Tuesday in form "part of his testimony and defense in chief."

He angry Enrile on Tuesday warned that Corona's testimony would be stricken off the record unless he would submit himself to cross-examination.

Yesterday, Enrile said that Enrile had rejected at the last minute a suggestion that a few senators went examine Corona in his hospital bed, relying on the integrity of the defense report on condition of the Chief Justice.

Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., the chief House prosecutor, told the senate that his camp, which had been taunting Corona to testify, was willing to forgo the cross examination.

But the lead defense counsel, Serafin Cuevas, said he still wanted to conduct a direct examination of the Chief Justice.

Cayetano asked Cuevas whether the defense would proceed with the testimony without the support Corona's narrative.

Cuevas replied, "The testimony will be entirely on his credibility and validity of his statements."

Under sedation

Cuevas profusely apologized in open court for Corona's failure to appear at yesterday's hearing. He said he and other defense lawyers had gone to the hospital to check on Corona, but were told that he was "sedated and unavailable for consultation."

Cuevas said he had been assured by the family that the Chief Justice was "willing to be back" to continue his testimony and he placed under cross-examination.

"But the stumbling block against that desire of the Chief Justice is his mental and physical condition," he explained before submitting a copy of the medical bulletin on Corona to the tribunal for reference.

"I don't think that his condition will warrant an intelligible examination, whether direct or cross-examination."

Cuevas also apologized for Corona's decision to leave the stand without Enrile's clearance, saying "we never anticipated these things."

"Don't I want to adhere to the rules? It's upsetting and I'm also condemning," he said, before Enrile cut him off. The Senate President said Corona would be asked about the incident upon his return.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, whose son, Rep. Sonny Angara was among the House leaders of Corona who had lashed out at Corona relentlessly in the past four months in defiance of the Senate tribunal's injunction against discussing the merits of the case in public, believed that Corona's abrupt departure on Tuesday was premeditated, and didn't help his cause.

"That kind of scenario is almost like toying and playing with the process of the impeachment court," Angara told reporters after he said Corona was fortunate Enrile "kept his cool."

'I'm no thief'

On the witness stand, Corona denied prosecution charges he held P12 million in dollar deposits in bank deposits, had illegally amassed assets and had failed to disclose them truthfully.

"I'm no thief, no criminal. I've done no wrong. But I am also no fool," he said. Corona then sighed a waiver for the examination of all his assets or constitution that the 188 representatives who signed the impeachment complaint and his arch critic Sen. Franklin Drilon do the same. The lawmakers open not to sign the waiver.

Corona said for the past five months President Aquino had mobilized the entire government machinery to malign him "24/7" after the Cojuangco family lost its sprawling sugar plantation to the Supreme Court decision last November. He claimed that Aino had been trampled to prosecute him and declared vice as chief magistrate, and defender of the rule of law this was unacceptable to him.

Enrile also acknowledged that Corona's abrupt departure, without Enrile's permission, might have a bearing on the verdict of the senator-judges.

"When he testified, he was not the Chief Justice. He was in ordinary citizen so he should have shown respect to the court," Enrile added.

Basa children take up cudgels for their father

By Leila B. Salaverria

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER Isasi, Carmen, Eric, Ilea and Francisco Basa only roar but about what happened to BSGD from the impeachment trial. NOY LAVA

CHILDREN of Jose Maria Basa III, uncle of Chief Justice Renato Corona's wife Cristina, yesterday said they wanted to restore their father's good name by justice in the bitter dispute with the Coronas over inherited properties.

"We are ready and willing to argue them in front of the appropriate court to hold to establish our law suit against the Basas," Carmen Basa said at a press conference.

Carmen said the Basas wanted to find closure for the long-running feud.

"Our family has been going through this standoff for almost 30 years. We want this to end and not allow this to be passed on to future generations. I don't want my kids to deal with this," she said.

Carmen spoke to the defense and her brothers, whom the Chief Justice described as a spoiled brat and jobless in the course of his three-hour testimony at the Senate impeachment court on Tuesday in answer questions about his alleged failure to declare his properties in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

The family-owned Basa-Gaston-Concepcion Inc. (BGD) figured in Corona's impeachment trial because the side of Corona's properties were awarded to family multimillion pesos deposits that were in the name of Corona. BGD was also alleged by the source of an P13-million cash advance that the Chief Justice had declared in his SALN.

The Basa children said it was Jose who had registered Corona's mother and their family, and even pointed to the notes of reports that came out in a newspaper that had supposedly maligned his wife's character.

Honorable, patriotic

Carmen said that contrary to Corona's assertion, her father was never unemployed and was an honorable and patriotic man who never gave up his citizenship even as he lived in the US. Jose was a farmer, an entrepreneur and agricultural consultant to the Philippine military she said.

She also defended her father's position in the dispute with Cristina over the ownership of a Lilia property in Quezon City. She said the property was never in the name of Cristina's mother Asuncion Sison, contrary to what Corona alleged.

The Chief Justice in his testimony claimed that after Jose sold the Lilia property, Asuncion's name disappeared.

Carmen and their grandmother gave Jose the Lilia property, which he gradually built with a degree in animal husbandry from the University of California in Davis, and was able to divert up the land into a farm that raised poultry, fish and pigs.

"Our father worked hard to make the property valuable and he was able to put back the seven out of the seven," she said.

When asked, Carmen said preservation in the trial of Corona were not directly help ing the Basas in their legal disputes with Cristina.

But she said that the preservation had "been able to uncover more things than we ever knew."

She said the Basas had been demanding access to cargo, race books and accounts for years, but have not seen any.

Anxiety for last 30 years

Carmen also said Jose did not beat the family feud over BGD lightly, and suffered an attack illness and anxiety over the last 30 years of his life.

"And sadly, he did not see justice and those issues were never resolved. And to hear the Chief Justice malign him and his brother was [sic] shocked, was one of the most painful moments in our lives," a tearful Carmen told reporters.

She described her father as an "honorable man, who deeply believed in the justice system."

Ana Basa, Carmen's sister, said her father worked hard to provide for his family and taught his children to be good, not harmful people.

"He went a happy family and my dad and my mom raised us to be children of value, integrity, giving, loving and respectful people. So, we don't know how to take all of these things that are being lodged against my dad," she said.

Ana said her father was not even informed of a deferred loan still. "It's so unfair what he did to slander the good name of my father," she said.

'Corona stole from owners'

Whatever the outcome of the impeachment, all but be a victory for anybody because of so much pain and suffering the Basa has caused, said Ilea.

Carmen said it was the Coronas who had "in effect stolen the company [BGD]. Stolen the business's owners of the corporation."

"Despite our differences, we continue to pray for Cristina, the Chief Justice and his family and hope they will find peace and comfort in finally putting all these issues to rest," Carmen said.

Solons won't call Corona's bluff: 'We're not the ones on trial'

By Leila B. Salaverria, Cathy Rymauth and B.C. Calamaguin

THE 188 LAWMAKERS would not fall for Chief Justice Renato Corona's "media play" of dating his accusers to disclose all their past and dollar accounts so that he would do the same, House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said Wednesday.

He said that the complainants' signing of waivers had nothing to do with the case against the Chief Justice.

A prosecution spokesperson, Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara, said the lawmakers were not facing cases like Corona, and therefore do latter's dare as a "trap."

Angara said Corona was looking for an excuse and for someone to drag down because he knew that it would be difficult to get the 188 signatures, since the lawmakers are not facing charges, there is no need for them to sign such waivers.

He also said the lawmakers' waiver was not the main issue as the impeachment trial.

"If the court requires it [I will sign]. But why should we subject ourselves to that punishment? In the first place, we are not impeachable officials," he said.

Many of the complainants are unwilling to sign the waiver, with some of them saying that it was a scam, and that there is already a waiver in their statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

Corona issued a waiver which he took the stand in the Senate impeachment court on Tuesday, but said the 188 complainants and Sen. Franklin Drilon must do the same or else there would be no justice in his actions.

"It's a very clever ploy by the senate that there's an attempt to have a discriminatory tactic and bring the issue away from him and transfer it to the 188 and to Senator Drilon. It isn't the 188, as to speak," Gonzales told reporters.

"The issue here is, sorry if I keep on saying, the waiver, it has nothing to do with his impeachment," he added.

But with his duty, Corona has managed to put the prosecution in the hot seat.

Drilon said he would not sign a waiver requiring him to disclose his bank accounts, "this will be done in the impeachment court."

"Because if we will be required to sign [the waiver], it is, the waiver is ineffective. It's nothing. You can't use it. It only becomes effective if the 188 and Senator Drilon sign," he said.

Focus on CJ waiver

The House had prosecutor Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. said the impeachment court should focus on the waiver signed by the Chief Justice.

"We don't want to divert the issue. The issue is the waiver allowed to congressional or a committee," Tupas said.

He made the declaration, apparently on behalf of all signatories, when asked by Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada if the kind of waiver Corona's accusers would be "willing" to sign the waiver that the Chief Justice offered.

"Sir, you're not willing," Estrada followed up at the trial.

"We will not sign," Tupas said.

Tupas said he did not want a copy of the waiver issued for them although local defense counsel Serafin Cuevas said copies were being circulated.

Conditional

Sen. Francis Escudero noted that Corona's waiver allowed to Drilon and members of the House was in effect "conditional."

That is because Corona also outlined that he would instruct his lawyers to not find the case if anyone of the persons he dared to sign would not.

Escudero said Drilon noted separately that the instruction for the defense panel to find the case if anyone of the 188 refused to sign was automatic.

This means the defense panel would no longer present any more witnesses, including Corona himself, in phases of evidence presentation.

"Obviously, there is an automatic direction to the defense panel that the case of the respondent will be rested if any of 188 will not sign the waiver," Drilon said.

Best case

"None of 188 will sign a waiver. If it therefore clear that the instruction is automatic. The defense panel is being instructed by no less than the respondent to rest its case," he added.

Corona said he did not issue any instructions from Corona to do just that. "But the instructions were done to open hearing," Drilon said.

Favoritism

"But that is favoritism; it's not mandated instruction," Corona shot back.

Drilon said he would not sign the waiver brandished by Corona.

The senator explained the waiver would not be necessary since he reports all his assets in his SALN.

Drilon said the SALN submitted by lawmakers, unlike that of the Chief Justice, did not include the amount of billions of pesos worth of their bank deposits.

Transparency

The senator warned that if lawmakers were required to share their bank accounts, "this will be close to violation of banking secrecy."

In radio interviews before the start of yesterday's proceedings, Drilon clarified Corona's use of the Foreign Currency Deposit Act (FCDA) as his excuse not to reveal his dollar accounts.

He said the FCDA, which protects the law, does it mean anyone can steal from government coffers, conceal the loot into dollars and deposit the cash in banks and those would not be opened? I don't think that's correct," the senator said.

Drilon said the Constitution guarantees transparency to government and should be considered more superior to any ordinary law.

"The rule on transparency cannot be subordinated to a law. Why even the Supreme Court has issued a ruling that a criminal cannot invoke the FCDA to conceal his ill-gotten dollars. It is the Supreme Court itself that said the law cannot be taken advantage of by the criminals and the corrupt," he added.

Drilon said it was obvious that Corona and his lawyers were trying to pin him down on their perception that he was biased against the Chief Justice.

Drilon said this began when he was able to elicit an admission from the Supreme Court clerk of court that she had received a copy of Corona's SALN when she testified at the trial.

Drilon cautioned clerk of court Enriqueta Vidal to submit the document as evidence for the prosecution, thus setting the tone for Corona's testimony.

Colonel Windsor Jhp, flye Hinds, also a member of the prosecution, said the waiver that Corona demanded of the complainants against him was unnecessary.

"I've said that in the lawmakers' SALNs, there was already a waiver allowing authorities to look into government records to check if what they declared was true. That is not necessary, that is just for decoration," he said.

Deputy Speaker Lorenzo Tañada III said the SALNs of members of the House of Representatives had all been filed and these would be released as the project time.

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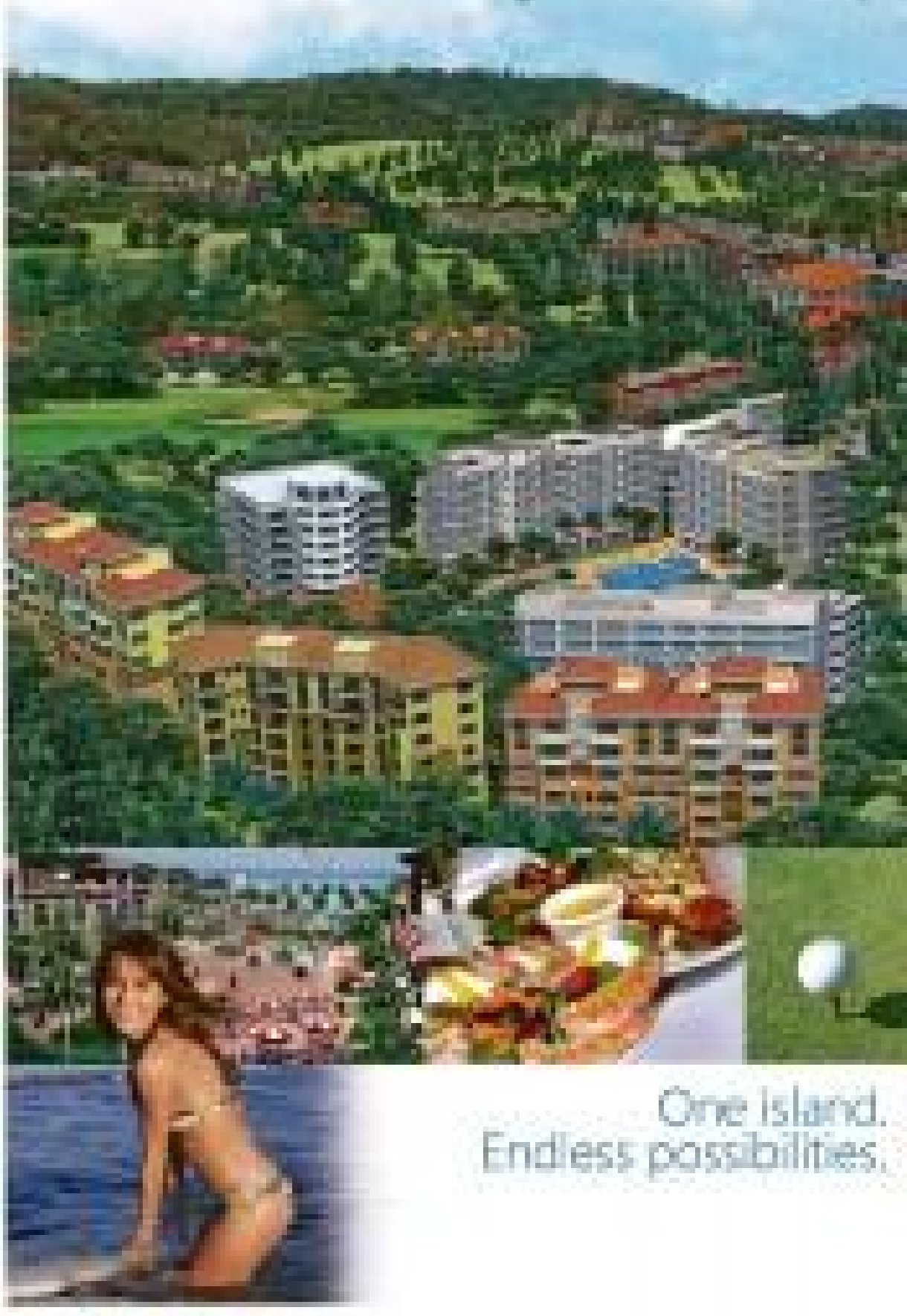

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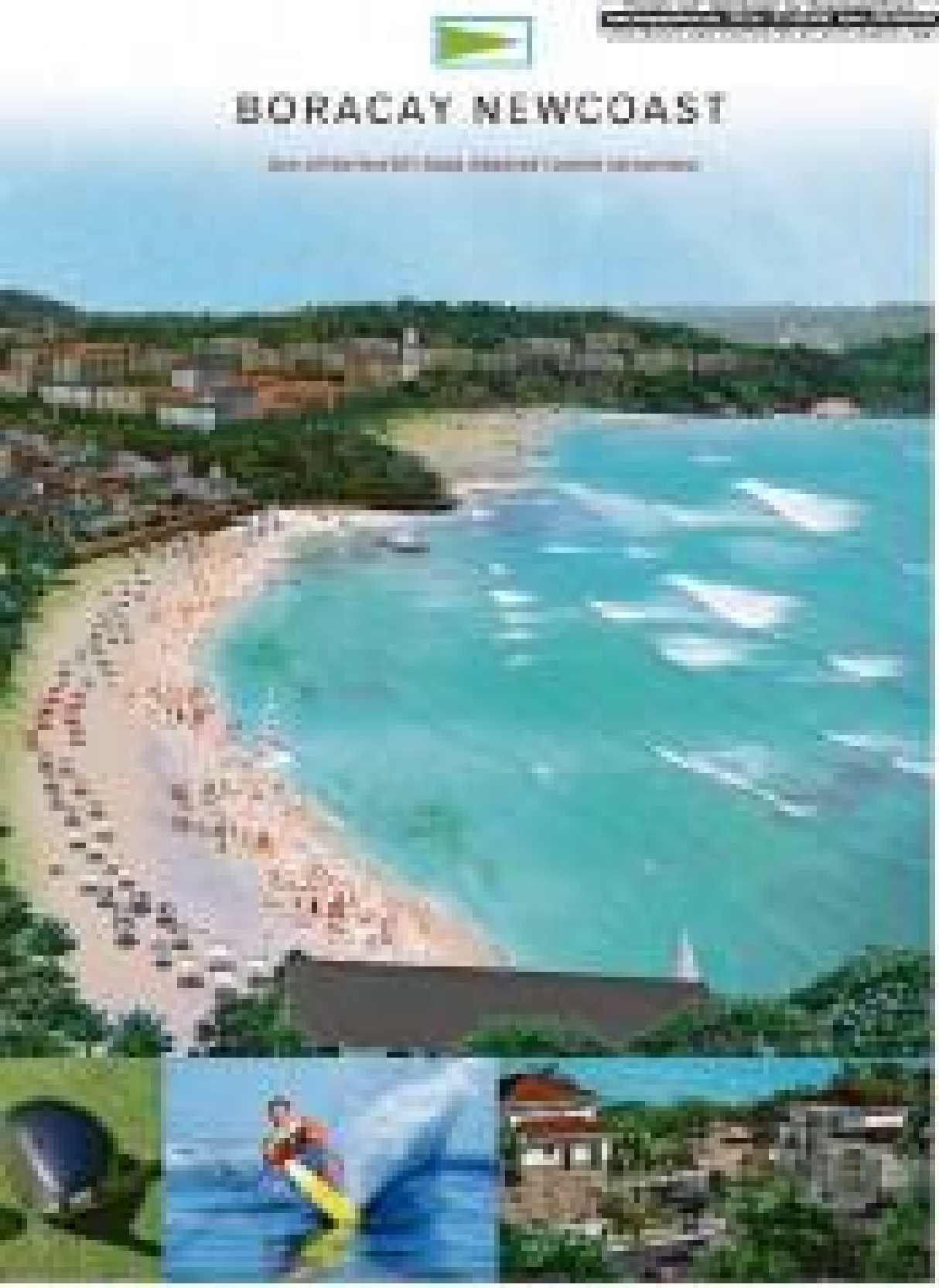

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OPINION

Feeling like royalty

EDITORIAL

CHIEF JUSTICE Renato Corona's waffiest from the impeachment court last Tuesday showed exactly what he thought of it: beneath him. His very words at the end of his opening statement, "the Chief Justice of the Republic of the Philippines wishes to be excused," were nothing but imperious and indicated the lowest regard for the impeachment court, its presiding officer and the senators serving as judges. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who had extended to Corona the highest courtesies to the point of overruling the protest of the prosecution against the witness' hour-long narrative and harangue at absent persons, was correct to order a lockdown and demand that the defense bring its client back to the stand. The witness had not been properly discharged, after all; he should not expect to continue to be treated with kid gloves.

Now the man is in hospital and, his doctor said yesterday, would be unfit for direct and cross-examination for 48-72 hours. There goes his longstanding promise or explain himself in the impeachment court (although he can still spring a surprise and make an appearance tomorrow). His statement, in itself highly irregular even to those without benefit of a law degree, being a long and uninterrupted recitation of claims and statements, emotional remarks marked by a dramatic pause to contain tears, an irrelevant aside on his wife's relatives, and generally a recitation of all that he and his lawyers had been saying these past months, is hardly a fulfillment of that promise despite his declaration that it was addressed to the waverboys. (The language he employed—a mishmash of Filipino and English that was as inelegant as it was lacking in gravitas, particularly in contorting Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales' sentiment on his purported $2-million account and in discounting on his wife's family members—was presumably in deference to the same waverboys, but it should be pointed out that he did them a disservice by protesting that they appreciate eloquence. Dressed formally, he behaved in a manner that demanded royal ornament but his language was appropriate for a pauper and decidedly incongruous with that of a top magistrate. Can anyone conceive of any the retired Chief Justice Hilario Davide speaking thus?)

But the bizarre developments in Corona's effective "disappearing act" is that it has not elicited a formal process—not from Enrile, not from the senators (not even the trigger-happy Miriam Defensor-Santiago), not the members of the prosecution—and a corresponding unanimity. Has a precedent been set? May a witness, particularly of a lofty stature like that of the Chief Justice, be within his/her rights to leave the stand and walk out of the courtroom even without permission from the judge or presiding officer? Corona's camp denies that Tuesday's high drama was premeditated, but the circumstances are quite revealing. Enrile told the presiding prosecutor early on in the hearing that the Chief Justice was fully aware of the protocol. Apparently, the Chief Justice was not, as he did not see himself bound by it. His camp's announcement that he was suffering a low blood sugar condition and needed medical attention came across as an assault at damage control after it became clear that Enrile, who had ordered the Senate's exits blocked, would not swallow his behavior. At any rate, the Chief Justice did not appear to be on the brink of fainting, as his camp had chained: he walked out of the session hall and toward the rear exit on steady feet, exhibiting no hint that he was nauseous or approaching collapse. Indeed, it is required that when he and his family were barred from leaving by Senate security personnel, he was well enough to inquire if he was being arrested. But when he returned after a lengthy interval, he was on a wheelchair.

At that point, it did not seem like the Chief Justice had any intention of explaining himself in his impeachment trial, reasoning that he would submit to questioning by the prosecution, as he had been pleading. His sense of royalty, of entitlement, appeared absolute. That he was subsequently taken to hospital, after his chief defense lawyer explained to Enrile his sudden malady, seemed to take on the contours of a script. His physician knew just him in ICU, but why is public sympathy not forthcoming? And why does his year's dramatic attempt at departure for parts abroad by former Presidents Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, then also in a wheelchair, come instantly to mind?

The star witness

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ON THE 40th day of his trial, Chief Justice Renato Corona himself took the witness stand. The head of the impeachment court, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, graciously welcomed him, assuring him that he would be treated with utmost respect befitting his position and the institution he represents. Surely acknowledging these gestures of courtesy, the wise witness took the oath and proceeded to debunk any claim that was supposed to be a total opening statement, but a well-rehearsed soliloquy.

After speaking for nearly three hours, almost without interruption, the man of the hour closed his notebook and said, with an air of finality, "And now the Chief Justice of the Republic of the Philippines wishes to be excused." As this stopped down from the podium, audibly audible out of the session hall followed by his family, and headed straight for the clinic. He had said his piece, and his body language left no doubt about the message: it was his work him to entertain any questions.

Stunned by this turn of events, Senator Enrile asked defense counsel Serafin Cuevas if the Chief Justice was coming back. The venerable lawyer mumbled excuses, pleading that his client had been under tremendous stress, and asked permission to leave. Enrile—always quick with righteous indignation against his detractors and perceived enemies, who he loosened, his gray coat taken off, he wore a fantasy pair and seemed bent to argue like on in-law, a medical doctor, and the Chief Justice, who suffer from diabetes, had left the session hall because he began to feel the onset of a "hypoglycemic episode" and was about to faint. He had skipped lunch, he said, and the sudden drop of glucose in the blood had put him in a state of confusion.

Clearly, at that point, the Chief Justice was no longer in a position to be at once examined on his testimony. Still bristling with anger, Senator Enrile lectured the senators and ordered the defense to produce their witness the next day under pain of having his entire testimony stricken off the record if he fails to return to answer questions. Corona was rushed to the Medical City Hospital, after being finally allowed to leave the Senate premises, and the latest news is that he is still under observation in the intensive care unit.

I personally doubt the Chief Justice will get back. His lawyers will say his medical condition prevents him from completing his testimony. Whatever they learns from his ordeal, what their client was going to do is anybody's guess. If they did, they would be cited for contempt of court. If they did not, then they will have failed in their duty to protect the interests of their client. The court will proceed to issue an order against the background of their client's unprovoked disrespect for the court.

Let us be clear about what happened here. The Chief Justice took advantage of the court's forbearance by speaking freely and demeaning his accusers. Instead of testifying under direct examination, he delivered a speech or oration filled with innuendoes, hearsay and irrelevant asides, despite the objections of the prosecution. If he were not a lawyer, he might be forgiven for this serious breach of judicial norms. But he is the highest magistrate of the land. As such, his first duty was to abide by court room procedures.

In the guise of answering points by point the charges hurled against him, and providing context to the stories that had been written about him and his wife's family, he delivered a long and emotional narrative testimony. He addressed himself not just to the court sitting in judgment but also to the public out there. The result was unfortunately another bit reminiscent of a courtroom trial into a press conference.

This bizarre display of supreme discourtesy in the course of what was supposed to be a straightforward cross-examination left everyone wondering what this performance was all about. If Corona meant to express his contempt, why did he not allow himself to be cross-examined? Why did he risk antagonizing the court? Or was it all part of a script, where is headed?

I am convinced that his presumed medical condition paves the way for his withdrawal from the trial as a witness, thus sparing him the tribulations of a prolonged cross-examination that would have exposed the hollowness of his testimony. This does not mean he is about to give his accusers the satisfaction of an easy conviction. Corona may have hoped that his vaunted "strength of character" would be the means by which to rationalize a vote of acquittal. If the Senate convicts him, he may choose a mistrial and appeal to the Supreme Court. What is clear is that, having gone this far, Corona is not about plunging the country into a constitutional crisis if he cannot have his way.

Let us for a moment set aside the issue of the four dollar accounts he has virtually admitted to owning, and assume the law indeed allows him to treat them as non-assets in view of their confidential nature. Let us likewise grant his claim of lifelong frugality that supposedly enabled him to accumulate millions of dollars in savings. Let the impeachment court answer only one question: is it right to continue entrusting the leadership of the justice system to this man?

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Epitaph

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THEY SAID it would be risky or brash for Renato Corona, he would make everything in his appearances before the impeachment court. He did, and it was.

The verdict?

Brash.

In the end, he did justice only to the assessment. His lawyers would have say they did not favor what he was going to do, they hadn't helped prepare what he was going to say. I believed them. There are limits to serving, or to the rationalization of patience, as their client himself had shown earlier. They weren't acting and they weren't pretending. They themselves had been taken aback. They had expected everything—except this.

For that, when all is said and done, he has the mighty legal warrior himself, Serafin Cuevas, the debonair had stuck to a legalistic framework, telling all the sting from the trial and saying it is to a common source in Sen. Ed. Philip Carroll bypassing "Your Honor" ringing in the halls of the Senate, and Miriam Santiago's tapered authority which had some members of the prosecution cowering and at least one of them covering his eyes for dear life as though fending off the bandaloong wrath of the divine, they had expected everything. They had turned it over to the office-stopping thing it was during Erap's time to a reality show that had no respect of a second season.

And woe that.

To say that Corona completely departed from it is to say that Fat Boone completely departed from what he was when he stopped singing "Love Letters in the Sand" and started singing "Smoke on the Water." It was by far the most exciting thing we have happened in the impeachment trial, which probably was the reason why by the first time since it began, Corona stopped doing lats and started doing...drama. Corona stopped addressing the senator-judges and started addressing—the public. The senator-jurors ceased to exist.

I hope the world a classic example in how to do everything wrong.

Whoever thought of the tack was probably the same one who thought of making Gloria get. It joined off the one person who had been saying to lead off public opinion from the trial, who had been insisting that the senator-judges, despite their obvious political partisanship, could judge that case impartially, who had been on legacy mode trying to give the country a classic example on how to not an impeachment trial. Enrile rose to magnify fury feeling the wing of the chap to his face, demanding to know from Corona, whom "your lawyer" had suddenly stranded Enrile and Enrile, why he wouldn't control his appeal, or client.

What was Corona thinking? That that show of defiance would give him the stature that had eluded him? That it would make him out to be the tragedy was in his mind? That it would provoke pity for the "poor" man, the "poor" victim of Enrile—possibly People Power?—hour his followers?

Whatever it was, it was swiftly dispelled by Enrile ordering the security to shut down all the exits from the hall, which had the guards and police detail obeyed, running the gates with a fortitude they hadn't displayed in a long time. From the brilliant first, Corona turned into The Fugitive, to go by old TV words. Which his handlers tried to undo by improvising the line that he had had a medical episode of hypoglycemia, a word that has now lodged in the national consciousness by way of jokes. When he came back, he smashed the ravages of the affliction, looking weak and weary, his eyelids drooping. Except that being a bad actor he didn't look object, he looked like he had body rot.

I had thought before Corona took to the stand that he would do a Jack Nicholson and thunder hell's with their evidences filled to contemptuous coolness, "The truth? You can't handle the truth!" But, the way he looked in the end could only make the public say that about him, "The truth? You can't handle the truck."

Before Corona took to the stand as well, his handlers spoke of it as Custer crossing the Rubicon, saying he die it cast. What he should have said yet another famous line, Caesar uttered: "I came, I saw, I conquered." Except that in the case, which might as well stand as his epitaph, it was:

I came, I saw, I fled.

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'Time discovers truth'

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

THAT PHONEME in the human philosophy lexicon is useful in understanding what the supposedly-retired Chief Justice Renato Corona is really all about. Consider the following: Book of history, 2nd perspective.

Early 2010: Strategists figuring out how to defeat the real reason he wants to be president is to save his Culionapo clan from utter bankruptcy, which would happen if the Supreme Court rules against the shutdown of 61 Bacnotan Limits.

May 12, 2010: President Gloria Arroyo appoints—surprise, surprise, by appointing Renato Corona to replace Chief Justice Reynato Puno who retires May 17, 2010. That is a relief to most in the legal community since Presidents Arroyo would likely appoint tested associate justice Antonio Carpio, which would give the law firm he co-founded considerable influence in the Court. But, under its sway, Mr. Aquino is enraged by Arroyo's move.

June 30, 2010: Aquino sends the strongest message possible that he wants Corona out by having Justice Conchita Carpio Morales swear him in as the 17th president of the Court before that seat, using a tradition supported by all past presidents (Morales is Antonio's cousin who was the only dissenter in the Court decision upholding Corona's appointment. She would be appointed Ombudsman by Aquino, but that's 2011, as soon as she retired from the Supreme Court.)

June 30-30: Mr. Aquino tells Corona that he has a chance to be his patron if he gets the Court to rule unconstitutional his "Truth Commission"—which it didn't, by a close 8-to-7. (Dec. 2010 case: G.R. 192935)

July 2011: The Court rules the Cojuangcos' agrarian reform program to their plantation a sham, and ordered to distribute Hacienda Luisita to its farmers, but only 33 hectares—but only 33 hectares—to capitalists along with Junior Marcos' Cambelle.

whom Mr. Aquino's operations were already pressuring to resign with the threat of impeachment on grounds of plagiarism.

Nov. 19, 2011: The Court issues an order restraining the justice secretary from preventing petitioner a court order favorable to the petitioner. Aquino considers this big reason for wanting to take out Corona: that Arroyo would make justice, and his anticorruption crusade would fail, as long as he is the Chief Justice.

Nov. 22, 2011: The Court affirms in July 2011 ruling, dismissing Jovenir's argument for a P20 billion payment, the real reason for Mr. Aquino's wrath against Corona.

Dec. 12, 2011: While the Cojuangcos' appeal on the Hacienda Luisita decision is pending, and an order from Mr. Aquino, the House of Representatives impeaches Corona, ousts by a vote of the 188 complaisant representatives (all but read the complaint. The impeachment is clearly not based on evidence but is intended merely as a gag for a media demonstration of Corona to force him to resign. It is the first time in the world to mandate a shameless episode of mainstream media being asked to a strong President's agenda.

The Court's final ruling in April 2012 on the Hacienda Luisita case—upld against Cojuangcos—is expected to vote to take our Corona. If Corona had resigned, there would be only seven justices left during Mr. Aquino, since his slot would be taken over by the President's appointee, and there would be a deadlock every against arrest. However, Corona would likely be appointed—that is, a push he will invoke to lift his disbarment from the case, to be the voting

vote in a while-lit. Truth is obsolete." When truth is manipulated, he said, "we will not be bystanders."

Well, afternoon came and the Chief Justice delivered a three-hour statement with very an time inquiries, had an overwhelmly of testimony from the court, then unpublishedly and rapidly walked out without waiting to be excused. Days before, presiding Senator judge Juan Ponce Enrile had repeatedly assured the defense that there will be no hurried—and that the Chief Justice will receive as much support. Well, the defense panel's walkout on deservedly got spit, s*t and having baby on his face. Puno chapters of horse manure? The supreme judges who have been totally theft and now have the audacity of a lower Court authority developed failed justice, as if they have been in the Court.

Interpret or not, the Chief Justice's act should be a shocking prelude to the unraveling of the true nature of the man on the dock and, hopefully, of the truth. Methinks it was a signal, also—why would a defense lawyer shake the Chief Justice's hand while the latter was walking toward the exit door, as if saying, sge: go on. Didn't the defense realize the wrongness of a jib?

Will the Chief Justice be back for direct and cross examination? Or is he now thinking about the better option? Lawyer and former Sen. Sen. A.V. Esguerra said: "Habit is one many regrets, pay regrets my moral cross, or agree with himself, or love, self, self." Or my self-light, self-love, self-rich get it, refuse to fight and defend my true love."

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Force majeure or horse manure?

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"RIOT AND be Jose!" was a priest's exclamation when I asked him what he thought of some Catholic bishops celebrating Noynoy Aquino at the Supreme Court, a sign of support for impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona. The priest had just come from a retreat and was not aware of what was going on in the last stretch of the impeachment trial.

Another priest texted me to say that he would not read Manuel Buaya's to consider the motion. Manuel is the Department of Justice secretary, he said, let them be. But when a simple Mass for Justice and Truth—and nothing but—was organized, he readily participated and even delivered an earth-moving homily.

Last Thursday, the impeachment trial was back and protagonists were eagerly waiting to listen to the Chief Justice, people I know were at prayer, begging God for the truth to prevail. Many of them were in the streets of Pasay near the Prince Jr. Mall, hugging God for the truth to prevail. Many of them were in the streets of Pasay near the Manila Bank Building. Sister Mae Maria is a Baua lady who bravely came out to some key stand on the controversial Baua Cardone Enterprises Inc., which has figured in the impeachment trial. Incidentally, Baua 5 and 6.

While the impeached Chief Justice had high profile witness Filmore celebrated by some Catholic bishops and reportedly got support from prosecutors from the Ateneo de Grino, somewhere, many from the noisy impeachment crowd, Catholic but people, everyone who wanted to pray, to be peaceful, to be there at the Bahala-Church (Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish) last Tuesday morning. The well-attended Mass did not feature support for any party, group or personality. It was a prayer session—but for the Truth with a capital T. No color-coding, no pro or anti hatreds. Just beseeching the Almighty for an intervention for the Truth.

One of the eight concelebrating priests, Redemptorist Fr. Jose Mendiola, articulated what many of us were praying from. "There is no suffering as one truth for the rich and one truth for the poor, justice fashion and one of the priests, whipped and by people. It is not an abstract thing up there in the clouds. You cannot pay for truth; you cannot turn truth into a white lie. Truth is absolute." When truth is manipulated, he said, "we will not be bystanders."

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The diplomacy option

WORLD VIEW

Christopher R. Hill

DENVER—A senior Iranian diplomat, in conversation with Korea and Iran, once said to me: "The North Koreans are like neighborhood children with machetes. The Iranians are who we really need to worry about."

Whether the talks between the "P5 + 1" (the United Nations Security Council's five permanent members and Germany) and Iran, which continued in Istanbul on April 14 and was supposed to resume in Baghdad on May 23, have any chance of succeeding remains highly uncertain. The smart money is most likely being wagered on failure. But those of little faith need to understand that the diplomatic track is the only track to such negotiations that are considered for true purpose.

The first purpose is, of course, to persuade the country in question to come around to others' views. But negotiation must also demonstrate that every reasonable effort has been made to have those views further steps—especially the highly risky and fraught decision to take military action—are considered. Military measures require broad international acceptance, and that condition can be met only in a context of good, faith efforts at diplomacy.

Effective diplomacy is not just about substance; it is also about timing and sequencing. Those who support a military solution to the problem of Iran's nuclear aspirations, without first supporting diplomacy and economic measures of the kind currently being implemented against Iran, are not serious about that option. Even our political leaders today argue that case for war. Those who do have succeeded only in driving up the price of oil, as markets, fearing the likely effect of military action on the region, respond to fears of disruption.

There has been another avenue to curbing about diplomacy with Iran head, which would be within range of a nuclear-armed Iranian missile, and therefore is most threatened by

that prospect. Being willing to fight is the last resort is a familiar pattern for those determined to take risks themselves. But to encourage Israel to do so what others with far greater means to do is a great deal of a small country in the Middle East with problems far and wide, most notably among its neighbors.

Israel, after all, has matched the political desired opponents in Egypt not with hope, but rather with growing alarm. The Israelis also see with great alarm that many in the world the sense of the likely successor regime to Syria's Bashir al-Assad and Turkey need not be computed exclusively of Facebook and Twitter users).

While it is true that many Arab states worry night and day about a nuclear Iran, they are considerably unlikely to support military intervention by Israel. After all, this is the Middle East, where, as the old joke goes, the weapon of choice for settling disputes is across the Suez Canal, knowing that they will flank them.

Nor is a serious American-toward serious-ends, as Carl von Clausewitz observed almost 200 years ago. Countries that have suffered a firsthand know better than most the painful effects on subsequent generations. It is, after all, the human endeavor most associated with unintended consequences. To advocate military action out of exasperation with other efforts, even if those efforts' odds of succeeding are very long, is to ask a lot not only of the countries that are supposed to support it, but, more importantly, of the men and women who must execute it.

The proper sequencing of steps in dealing with world trouble spots is essential to gaining international support for further action. The air campaign that ultimately succeeded in breaking Slobodan Milošević's grip on Kosovo (and later his grip on Serbia proper) was made possible by prolonged diplomacy by the United States, the European Union, and Russia.

No one at the time cried to argue that peace was not given a chance, which is why advocating a quick end to diplomacy when it is judged unlikely to achieve anything is often a mistake. Diplomacy can also be a way to build support for military solution until they have overcome reluctance to other means of persuasion (and concern) fail.

Even if no military option is contemplated for the future, negotiations can put other diplomatic tracks in motion. For example, many representatives in South Korea showed a substantial percentage of the public there blaming the United States for the North Korean nuclear threat. While the majority presses has fallen well short of ending the threat, it has virtually eliminated efforts to blame the United States as the culprit.

Iranian nuclear aspirations are a problem that, if not resolved, could lead to dangerous escalation, as countries such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United States and Israel review their options. But these options will become much clearer and more sustainable if the diplomats (such as carefully explored) first.

Project Syndicate

Christopher R. Hill, former US assistant secretary of state for East Asia, was US ambassador to Iraq, South Korea, Macedonia, and Poland. US special envoy for Kosovo, and US negotiator with North Korea from 2005-2009. He is now dean of the Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver.

Corruption rampant

I'VE BEEN doing the rounds of meetings in different government offices for various projects, and I've noted on numerous sights 'new rank and' (not including sweaty paid overtime guards) seeing at least two ridiculously expensive gadgets—iPhone, Galaxy, iPad, BlackBerry and combinations thereof.

How off let's do the math. For a clerical level position (and trust me, I'm well-versed in the Salary Standardization Law and the Wage Standardized, the math would, at the most, be taking home a monthly salary of P15,000. If that amount is lent P5,000 goes to rent, P3,000 to utilities, P3,000 to public transport or gas for the car, P5,000 for meals (not including those occasional eat out meals), and the monthly cost of even public school tuition is P4,000.

Assuming they don't have credit cards to avail themselves of those zero interest monthly installment programs of gadgets shops (hey, even Globe! have a credit card!), they would only have paid for those gadgets in another installment program in the form of loans. Who do they turn to? Sometimes who have actually earned the compassion of instant officials. Better yet, the enterprising breed of the latter who have made a business out of "confiscated" or "discovered" shipments.

They could simply have amassed so much "savings" from the little bribes they get in their daily work. Come on, there anyone think all those fines in long queues at documentary clearances and extremely bureaucratic agencies operate independently? Let's not kid ourselves. Or, as to another blog: but highly representative example, remember that "clerk" dude, whose job is to stamp and staple sheets of paper, he did not have a clue about, who drives a Porsche? Unsung manual, my eye.

Sadly, it is not confined to the government system. Few thoughts of how private-sector organizations engage local government executives and officials, in turn, and vice versa to lobby for them cooperation? Do private corporations and their security and integrity-preaching bosses in their advertising dealings with their industry partners, suppliers and service providers? Or company bosses who turned all the way of an employee's (legitimate!) opportunities for genuine shareholder-simply because they have their own hidden agenda?

Then again, they might ask, why bother keeping things clean when the whole system is—and traditionally has been—as dirty as a public toilet?

Indeed, corruption is not confined by accident, sheer resignation, or desperate need, clearly crops into our culture. Government units, we see, have been or will be bound to contracts to ease the slightest corrupt attempt on our part or toward our fellowmen. Why not? We are so much to live an honest life only to be gobbled up by a structure that is so mired in corruption and inefficiency.

That's why no matter how much this administration—probably any administration, for that matter—it unpeels a crusade to fight corruption, it will only look good on paper and in avenue bongo media. All this hypocrisy of sounding out tough-talk as a public service is a joke. Maybe the only time that this flowery promise to the just feel nothing and this is changed. The real change is not in handcutting this and that person, this or everyone, even the common man, living honestly.

Mike Sayson, 29, is an independent political affairs and communications consultant. He is preparing to return to work in the Green after a two month break.

Still a proud Filipino?

Marvin D. Asilo

TODAY, I went out to find a job. After taking the exams and a few minutes I was taken to the last one—the final interview with the vice president of a plywood company. As we began, I noticed that the 60-year-old executive seemed bothered by something. He kept talking about the low performance of the employees. I just finished and then he looked me in the eyes and asked, "You're a psychology graduate, right? Can you tell me why?"

I looked back at him, gathered my thoughts and said, "Maybe, they lack the proper motivation?" He shook his head a few times and, with a forceful gesture of his hands, replied, "Motivation isn't enough. But they're poor and were a chance at a better life is in their hands?"

For a while I couldn't make any reply, just thinking for now right I felt I needed to answer him, but I had to be cautious. He may be right to a job after all.

"Well, I agree," I said, "motivation, even with proper motivation, the organizational culture you have right now doesn't inspire your employees to desire a better life." He smiled at me and nodded.

Again it is.

Filipinos are widely known to be hardworking, lives to day, are overseas Filipino workers, especially our seamen, are preferred over other foreign workers, primarily because they are hardworking. Yes, our country remains poor and most of us Filipinos are struggling to make ends meet every day, struggling to change it. Why? Do we lack the talent and skills to become a great nation? Do we have more liberties than our neighbor countries have? Do we lack the raw materials needed to make us more productive than other economies? Are we poor?

Looking at nothing.

We look at our leaders for change. During elections, we hear their promises and most of us seem to believe. We put our hope in their hands, and then we stand aside and watch them do their jobs. Then we complain. Nothing new. Sad as!

And history repeats itself . . . over and over.

Most of the time, we look at others for help—to the Americans, to the Japanese, to the Chinese, even calling out souls, for what? Table scraps?

They don't owe us anything. We owe us need to be a great nation once again, because we already have the thing—for a long, long time. We simply don't realize this.

Believing is everything.

What we, Filipinos need is to go back to our roots, to our culture. We need to go back to the time when we were more spiritually, resilient in battle and self-reliant. We have outlived against invaders, toppled a dictatorship and overcame so many other wars.

All we have to do is to find deep within ourselves that one and only identity once again. The basic DNA that makes us Filipinos . . .

After the interview, I went home to my family, hugged my children and kissed my wife. We had a nice, quiet dinner and then those restlessness hit me: it set me on a new course, a new direction. And I knew I had that?

If someone asked me, am I proud to be a Filipino? Yes, without a doubt!

"Did you get the job?" I heard my wife asking me.

"I hope so!" I told her.

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YOUNG BLOOD

Mike Sayson

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their hopes and fears? Are they worried? Excited? Are they confident that they can make a difference? Write to us at youngblood@inquirer.com.ph. Please include your real name, address and contact number. We may withhold your name upon request. Maximum length is 600 words.

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Borrowing Tiglao's mindset

LETTERS

ROBERTO TIGLAO recently blamed (but his column titled "Inquirer camp hijacking mystery to the editor" has been the most read and shared online opinion piece for a month, the warmed of air in coercing last page of fake lawyer with a single common personal-address constable to Malacañang—"Sinovic's a P20,000 bonus for an operative who gets his fake lawyer published ... Be on the lookout, dear readers ... Google their names and they don't exist, the only result are the published spurious letters."

So, borrowing Tiglao's mindset and prescribed method, I looked, Googled and found some of his fake lawyers as the editor under the fake name "Johnny K. Manu." (Well, I can't really call letters published for his columnist fans, only printers that hide professional identities, like Tiglao.) Google the alias yourself, and you may find (as shocker announcements profile from the United States with a silhouette for a picture ... "the only result are the published spurious letters." Editor's Jan. 19, 2009 letter to flatter the style of a veteran journalist who is deep into politics and governance. (Tiglao has been an ex-officio/senior Newbie Aquino-become promotion.) His Jan. 16, 2012 letter is an epitome of snowballing towards Chief Justice Renato Corona: "I would pitch in P1,000 from my pocket to help pay for his defense.... win or lose, you are a real hero and a true Chief Justice!" If Alano is a real person, please write and prove that Tiglao's schizophrenic operate for enchanting people as non-existent or fake ain't very reliable after all. Otherwise, Tiglao, a.k.a. Alano, would serve the most hypocritical pseudo/fakes of all. How's your database back Tiglao?

Hypocrite also characterizes Tiglao's being the only business writer who does not allow his own "dear readers" to post comments under his columns, as he openly enjoys this (spiritually) unfair advantage over all other opinion pieces that come with comments when I read or shared.

The twist of truths and fabrications in his columns are not immediately checked and balanced by commenters that can clarify, contradict, debunk or disprove his opinions. For instance, a paranoid reader can quickly point out that Alejandro calling would never be so stupid as to send a barrage of fake letters using one IP address, therefore the contention is quickly debunked as just another vicious rape Tiglao fabrication. And tough ... I could really use P20,000, but I never write for money. I hope I never do.

Tread and debate Tiglao's columns. He's not such a bad journalist when he writes truthfully.

Tiglao's column in the Inquirer are a watering for commentary space. We'd let us grateful if the business entrusted the glaring imbalance.

—FRED LAPUZ,
alterfree@rocketmail.com

They may be 'minsan hastos' but the Tulfos have great hearts for the ordinary people

EVIDENCE shows that their style is controversial, even "minsan hastos" (at times vulgar), but the Tulfo brothers do something that very few journalists in the Philippines do. They give "voice to those who do not have a voice," they speak on behalf of people no one listens to.

When "Juan de la Cruz" is too subjected and his rights are violated, the Tulfos speak up to defend him from the abuses of kanangay officers, corrupt government employees, politicians or whoever does not fulfill his/her duties.

In the case of Ramon Tulfo, he did what he said his brothers always do: he wanted to show how a simple, ordinary person can, being abused, if a member of the crew of a company is tortured by a ordering. I firmly believe that the world must know this: fame, money or power does not give anyone the right to mistreat a person. If the company makes a mistake or a incompetent, the right thing to do is pass on the evidence shown that their style is controversial, even "minsan hastos" (at times vulgar), but the Tulfo brothers do something that very few journalists in the Philippines do. They give "voice to those who do not have a voice," they speak on behalf of people no one listens to.

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—FR. JACINTO BELLA, JSB
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RADYO INQUIRER

Obandeños vs landfill

LETTER WRITER Nonoy Oro complained that the title of a news report on the Supreme Court's endorsement to the Court of Appeals of the writ of kalikasan filed by angry residents of Obando, Bulacan, against Ecosystem Development Corp.'s P1-billion "sanitary" landfill was "deliberately and maliciously twisted ... it looked like the petitioners got what they wanted when in reality their petition was very subtly denied by the high court." (Inquirer, 5/16/12) Oro further described the aggrieved petitioners by describing them as "a handful of residents ... claiming to be environmentalists."

The title is correct: "Supreme Court grants Malacañan bid relief to fight ex-landfill." (Inquirer, 5/4/12)

The Supreme Court's speedy action denying the merit of the petition of respected Obandeños, (ex chairmen/ chairwomen, Dominic Roumbaut's landfill will poison the waters of a small and quiet fishing town and Manila Bay, imprint the people of livelihood, and upset the virtue of childlike complete pleading for the Christ's intercession in this traditional tourism site.

I came from abroad for a visit to my hometown Obando, but found myself investigating livelihood and learned it is owned by a former ambassador who was close to the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and now chairs a Catholic Church institute. Calling the attention of Manila Archbishop Luis Tagle.

Why did the Department of Environment and Natural Resources approve Roumbaut's landfill project? Obando is situated part of Manila Bay, it was one of the worst calamity-prone towns during Typhoon "Pedring" and "Quiel," and the Court has issued an order for the clean-up of Manila Bay.

A "buffalo" architect of Roumbaut requested by caused the destruction of mangroves around a 48-hectare fishpond, and threatened the leaders opposed to the landfill. Roumbaut's public relations man lost his credentials, like taxpayer's Henri Cruz and Ramon Tulfo.

We Kabalikpuso's were privileges in seeking the Supreme Court's relief knowing their bosses ago, when they opposed Regalo Roumbaut's Pinkes landfill in Navotas—only a minute away from Obando. One day in the barge carrying the garbage of Roumbaut passed by Obando River, angry Obandeños managed to disable it. After that, a leader of the fisherfolk group was reportedly ordered killed by a major general (now retired). Pinkes transferred its dump, but not far enough. The new dump is still along the shore of Manila Bay.

We will continue to fight Roumbaut and Pinkes's desecration of our town's environment and source of livelihood. We are ready to sacrifice.

—ROBERTO B. SILANG,
manuelsilang@yahoo.com

Trees as tourist attraction

WHY DOESN'T the Department of Environment and Natural Resources spearhead the planting of flowering trees on our expressways from the north and south of Metro Manila?

Flowering trees such as golden shower, flame tree and bougainvillea with their mix of yellow, orange and violet colors could add color to our road-including highways.

With the onset of the rainy season, now is the right time to go on a massive tree planting of these flowering trees. If Japan has cherry blossoms, the Philippines can have these trees as added tourist attraction and come-on to our "more fun in the Philippines" campaign.

Although it takes years for these trees to grow and mature, the end product (result) definitely go a long way in beautifying our expressways.

—PEDRO BONANZA JR.,
ATTY. Bulacan,
Makati City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the provisions of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave., cor. Tegal and Mercado sts., City of Makati, or send it by fax to 896-6703, 897-0394, or e-mail feedback@inquirer.com.ph.

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Across the NATION

DILIGENCE After six on Mandaue City last month, residents of the village of Tipolo had to put out the conflagration called a needless result as it apparently failed to start at the height of a fire in the village. Dozens of local governments are ill-equipped to handle fires and other calamities. JOSE TORRES MARCELINO JR. / INQUIRER

Dirty water kills 3, downs 139 villagers

By Jose Escandor Jr. and Mia Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—Contaminated water killed three persons and struck ill dozens of other residents of several villages in two provinces where people relied heavily on deep wells for water.

Local health officials yesterday said three persons were dead and at least 40 others have been stricken ill with diarrhea in Naga, Camarines Sur, after drinking dirty water.

In Oas, Albay, at least 99 have been given treatment for diarrhea caused by drinking contaminated water.

The incidences of the dead in Naga have yet to be determined.

Dr. Meghan A. Beltran, Naga municipal health officer, said 80 persons were taken to clinics and hospitals for treatment of diarrhea.

Spreading disease

The patients were from the villages of Sto. Domingo, La Purisima, Sta. Cruz and Tinkinan, according to John Dirilio, executive assistant of Naga Mayor Nelly Gonzales, quoting a Mayo 23 report of the municipal health office.

Dirilio said results of tests made on water samples in the area have yet to be released but the diarrhea outbreak was believed caused by water contamination.

Cases of diarrhea started to surface in the first week of May and the number of patients taken to health clinics swelled to over a hundred in just a few days, according to government reports in San Fernando.

Officials said the spread of the disease stopped yesterday after health workers went to the villages to attend to the sick.

Hospital stop

In Oas town in Albay, 37 of the 99 villagers stricken with diarrhea in four villages were hospitalized on Monday in Jose Rizal Memorial District Hospital in Ligao City, also in Albay.

Dr. Ben Bongalis, assistant provincial health officer, said the cases were monitored in the villages of San Jose, San Vicente, Pinaka and Gumabon, which are 5 to 10 kilometers from the town proper.

Bongalis, in a phone interview, said the 37 people in the hospital were diagnosed as suffering from dehydration and loose bowel movements.

Another Mandaue fire displaces 1,000 people

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—At least 1,000 people lost their homes in a fire that struck a subdivision area for the poor in Zone Lower Centroid, Barangay Paknaan, Mandaue City.

While there was no reported casualty in the fire, a malnourished baby girl, estimated to be 3 months old, was rescued from a house that was among those destroyed by the fire.

Fire investigator Nilo Cotulo, of the Mandaue City fire department, said at least 183 houses were destroyed in the fire that broke out past 9 a.m.

The fire didn't rise raised to fifth from Alpha, the highest level, prompting fire trucks from other areas in Metro Cebu to help put out the fire. It was declared fire out about an hour later.

Cotulo said firefighters had difficulty entering the burning community because of narrow roads in the area.

He said firemen had to connect their hoses to at least 100 meters away from the center of the fire because no water connections were available closer to the fire.

A woman identified only as Cynthia, said in her 4 level government worker, saved a baby girl, who was apparently abandoned inside a house while the fire was spreading.

Cotulo said Cynthia named was the baby to Mandaue City District Hospital. He added that no one came to claim the baby until 1 p.m., indicating that the infant had been abandoned.

Ongoing investigation, Cotulo said the fire started in the house of a certain Prudencio Pamaos.

FINALLY THE RAINS The dry season boat left parched farmlands, even in Barangay Balili, Mankayan town, in Benguet, but the vegetable farms turned lush and green when May brought in the rains.

Kidnappers demand ₱70M for former mayor

BUTUAN CITY—Still unidentified suspects who kidnapped a former mayor of a Surigao del Sur town are demanding P70 million in ransom for their captive.

Hermie Pimentel, mayor of Carmen town, said in a phone interview that the kidnappers of Victor Tan, former mayor of the town, had contacted the victim's family and local officials to relay the ransom demand.

"The family had said they could not afford to pay the huge amount," said Pimentel. He did not say, however, how the kidnappers contacted the victim's family and local officials.

Tan, 67, was snatched while supervising the construction of a bridge by a river that he managed in Lianga town around 9 a.m. on Monday.

Supt. Martin Gamba, spokesperson of the Caraga police, said at least eight gunmen seized Tan and took him to a remote, mountainous part of Lianga.

It was the second time Tan had been kidnapped.

While serving as Carmen mayor in 1997, he was snatched by New People's Army (NPA) rebels as he visited his compadre's construction site in Lianga, also in Surigao del Sur.

The rebels released Tan after holding him in captivity for several months.

Pimentel said the group that snatched Tan on Monday had pretended to be New People's Army (NPA) rebels "but they were not."

"The abductors are not NPA, but members of a group pretending to be NPA and seek their livelihood through kidnap for ransom," said the mayor.

Pimentel said authorities have determined the identities of the suspects and the place where they are keeping Tan.

He said the local government was closely coordinating with police and the military to plan a rescue mission for Tan and the capture of the suspects.

Jun Pimentel said the safety of Tan was a main concern and plans for his rescue were being crafted carefully.

He said the local government is abiding by a policy of no ransom, no negotiations with kidnappers.

Several other kidnapping cases remain unsolved. The Bandit group Abu Sayyaf, which has ties to the international terror network al-Qaida, has been held responsible for many of the kidnapping cases.

Through the US government, it is pouring in resources and manpower into the campaign to eradicate terror groups in the Philippines, the Abu Sayyaf in particular and active in parts of Basilan and Sulu.

The military had assisted the guerrilla group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) of providing shelter to some members of the bandit group, a charge that the MILF vigorously denied. Rowell Barquez and Fritzie Lim, Inquirer Mindanao

Baguio execs seek to expel ghosts of past in hotel site

BAGUIO CITY—An abandoned hotel complex that used to draw thrill-seeking tourists to the mountain capital will undergo a major facelift to extract a different sort of visitors.

The city government is spending P15 million to convert the old Diplomat Hotel and its surroundings into a wedding and conference venue on Decoration Hill, Committee Philam Baguio Allue said here on Wednesday.

Allue joined church leaders who opened new renovated halls of the hotel. The abandoned complex is a favorite destination of people seeking quick and ghosts and has been used as location of TV shows for their Halloween episodes.

Allue said the 33,000-square meter property that was turned over by the national government in 1995 also has a new name: The Baguio Dominican Heritage Hill and Nature Park.

A 12,119-meter-high building, smoldering, was granite slabs that features the biblical Ten Commandments, stands on the same property.

Allue said the city council is drafting guidelines for its use, adding that the facility would never be used to stage political campaigns or programs.

"The place is open for weddings and concerts. The ballroom be rented for P200 an hour (or P1,000 a day). The activities should be legal and moral (and never) political. This is (one of the guidelines) which were agreed upon by the Heritage Hill committee in the city council. The property should be developed," she said.

Allue said the deed of conveyance issued by the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) when the property was turned over to the Baguio government in 1995 also has a new name: The Baguio Dominican Heritage Hill and Nature Park.

A 12.19-meter-high building, smoldering, was granite slabs that features the biblical Ten Commandments, stands on the same property

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

THE BEACHES of the Calagnan Group of Islands in Vinzons, Camarines Norte have attracted tourists.

Island offers quiet getaway to tourists

By Jonas Cabiles Sabas
Calagnan Island, Camarines Norte

IN THE FLATLAND that lies parallel to the almost two-kilometer stretch of a privately owned white-sand beach called Holabang Baybay (Long Beach) in Barangay Mangcawayan on Calagnan, an island off the town of Vinzons in Camarines Norte, watermelon once thrived.

The melon plants known for their thirst-quenching fruits had to give way to coconuts since the field gained fame as a tourist destination "comparable with Boracay" four years ago.

Mangcawayan, along with Banocboc and Pinagkanan, is among the three poor villages in the Calagnan Group of Islands (or Calagnan as it is popularly known today) in the northeastern frontier of Bicol. It can be reached in two and a half hours by boat from the town center of Vinzons on Bicolandia.

Tourists arriving in droves had reportedly trampled on the watermelon vines, so the peeved farmers have stopped planting. Others have taken advantage of the new-found attraction of the islands to sell refreshments to hungry swimmers.

In 1993, Supertyphoon "Iming" (International code-name: Angela) almost obliterated Mangcawayan and the rest of the Calagnan with strong winds and sea surges, drowning the residents in a life of isolation.

Now, the people, numbering just over a hundred, must deal with tourist arrivals, a development that has yielded more income for the residents.

Last year, the barangay council started dumping P100 from every tourist. During summer, when a thousand tourists would come on any day, the village would earn as much as P100,000, said the council treasurer, Beto Sales.

Consequence

The earnings, regardless of season, remain considerable.

Sisters have also cashed in on the influx of visitors.

This development, however, has brought to the bare problems that the village failed to anticipate.

Ulysses C. Boco, manager and caretaker of a portion of the Holabang Baybay in Mangcawayan, pointed at waste disposal as a concern. He has started to implement a no-littering policy soon that the island would face environmental issues that could arise from improperly thrown garbage.

Boco has collaborated with the barangay council on proper waste disposal on the beach and thus preserve nature. Among the suggested measures are the establishment of a dock in Mangcawayan so that all boats transporting tourists would stay in one place and oil spill and other maritime accidents averted.

"We do not charge all boats and we do not throw into the sea even the waste water inside our boat. Oil could have been mixed with it. We do it once we are in the mainland," said boat operator Alex Fernandez, 42.

Tourist themselves are pushing to keep Calagnan as it is and not to build hotels or "overdevelop" the place, according to Banocboc Sales.

Let it be

Sales acknowledged that the presence of hotels, bars and other establishments on the shore could bring jobs and boost the local economy, but villagers were inclined more to letting their place and their old lifestyle.

Tourist Jhayzee Alipio-on, 26, of Daraitan City, who works as a board examiner in Metro Manila, were among those who bemoaned the beaches of pristine white sand are no more.

"It's more fun if the place would remain a campsite, for instance. When it's developed, it would not be different from other destinations. It would not be unique. It would not be a getaway place," Alipio-on said.

With its fine sand and clear waters, Calagnan is very better than Boracay, she added.

Calagnan is so quiet, making it a perfect place for a family to relax, far from the city life, Alipio-on said.

"I would love to see the place undisturbed," she mused. The resort keeping intact the pine-where grass grows on grassland and wind sways hills rise almost abruptly from blue green waters that carry emerald when embracing the shore.

THE PAHIYAS festival has become one of the main showers of food and foreign visitors in Lucban, Quezon.

Lucban searches for 'Pahiyas' meaning

By Dallo T. Mallari Jr.
Lucban, Quezon

THE CATHOLIC Church has detached itself from the "extravagance" and "commercialism" of the modern-day celebration of the feast of San Isidro de Labrador, the farmers' saint, in Lucban town in Quezon province.

Msgr. Romulo Obcha, Lucban's parish priest for three years, said the Church was "restressing" that the occasion should focus on the feast and not only on the "Pahiyas" festival, which is held yearly on May 15 as a form of thanksgiving by a bountiful harvest.

The bishops, known for its exquisite display of multicolored "kiping" (colorful rice-based wafers) arranged in chandelier-style artworks), farm harvest and other native products in every house along the procession route, has become one of the country's top tourist destinations.

The Department of Tourism has included the event as a must-see tourist destination owing to the town's rich cultural history, color and gaiety.

Local gov't role

This year, the Church staged the traditional procession of the San Isidro icon in the morning, unlike in the past when the religious rite was part of the festival parade in the afternoon.

The festival is an undertaking of the local government, not the church, Obcha said. However, he said both church and local government leaders had joined efforts to return its focus on San Isidro.

Mayor Mones Villaseñor rejoiced the notion that the color and gaiety of the festival had diminished the spirituality of the event.

"The feast of San Isidro has not become commercialized. The big companies are here as sponsors of different programs to enliven the occasion. The event has remained centered on the farmers," he said.

Obcha defended the participation of big business. "The church cannot do anything about it. They are offering sponsorships to programs of the local government."

On May 14, activist priest Jose Francisco of the Diokesan of Infanta, in a phone interview, criticized the extravagance and commercialism of the Pahiyas, "when the farmers still experience daily pangs of hunger and their body and soul still belong to their landowners."

In a statement, Fr. Edu Gariguez, secretary general of the Justice and Peace Desk of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines-National Secretariat for Social Action, said the feast could be meaningfully celebrated "if the external features can fully recover the core love (Bicol) stolen from them."

Gariguez is a recipient of the 2012 Goldman Environmental Award, which honors leaders in the world whose work in the grassroots helps protect the environment.

According to host farmy accounts, the thanksgiving feast was first observed by residents during the presidential times when they offered fresh produce to the "santo" (deceased ancestors or town spirits). During the Spanish times, farmers put their harvest on their doorstep to receive a priest's blessing during the procession of San Isidro's image around town.

Organizers of the Pahiyas this year encouraged residents to adorn their houses with crops and other native products and gave cash prizes to contestants.

Houses with artificial decorations that carried business names were exempted. The one with the greatest décor received P70,000.

Model Bicolano students teach children of Naga love for reading

BETWEEN stacks of memorabilia of two well-loved sons of Bicol—Raul Roco and Bienvenido Santos—about 40 young learners huddled for the bayanihan Read-Along session held at the Raul S. Roco Library in Naga City during the program's fifth anniversary.

Through theatrical presentations interspersed with book reading, the finalists of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) in Bicol, along with students of the College of Education of Ateneo de Naga University (ADNU), came to share their love for reading to the storytelling sessions.

They presented three stories and made vivid the values of death, courage, perseverance, cleanliness and curiosity to the pupils of nearby Mac Mariano Elementary School.

Teresa Mae Delfino, Daniel Philip Ty, Jasmin Robert Macaraeg, Reuben Mesmoda, Ramiah Baldoza, Clarissa Bombase and Shalou Pontillas took turns at giving life to the stories that included "Si Langgam at si Tipaldong (The Ant and the Grasshopper)" and "Si Dalag na Tabol sa Dilim (Dalag Who Is afraid of the Dark)."

"Si Langgam at si Tipaldong," which was written by Alberto Angeles and illustrated by Benito Tatlon, is a story of a grasshopper who enjoys his lazy life but doesn't understand why the ant has to look for food all day. It centered the audience to listen because the storytellers reminded the values of the main characters.

In "Si Dalag na Tabol sa Dilim," written by Abdi Dew Bantug and illustrated by Ossel Ann Buan, Dalag is afraid of the dark and always sleeps with a flashlight on until a power outage in the neighborhood forces him to experience darkness alone as his mother was out for an errand.

STUDENTS of Ateneo de Naga University give life to the characters of "Si Dlago at ang Banyang Pilalo" in the Inquirer Read-Along held at the Raul S. Roco Library in Naga City. JOVEN TRANCOSO

The blackout allows Dalag to appreciate the things that glow in the dark, including the eyes of his cat and the stillness of seas in the sky. He overcomes his fear of darkness.

Another story was an adaptation of "Oury," a well-known Spanish-speaking cartoon character who likes to explore.

Lessons and values

Ben Geronimo, one of the TOSP members, said the story telling sessions intended to impart lessons and good values to the children. "The children should know as an early age that many people care for them," he said.

Although it was fun, the children actively participated in the question-and-answer phase after the storytelling.

"I learned from the story of Chingf that I should pray before going to sleep and that I should not fear darkness," said Regine Mallo, 11, who received books as souvenir memorabilia. The children also received snacks from Jollibee.

Charles Bustos, 6, said he learned from the theatrical presentations that he should be industrious and helpful, especially to his parents. "I must not be lazy," he said.

Confidence-building

Julie Lucille del Valle, an education instructor of ADNU, said reading stories to children would make them emotionally confident as an early age and help them become storytellers.

The College of Education of ADNU, like the bayanihan, has been conducting storytelling sessions for schoolchildren.

"We started it as an outreach program but over the years it became a way for us to give more to the children, aside from the [materials] things we give them," Del Valle said.

The bayanihan Read-Along session started in May 2007 to spread the love for reading, especially among children. It has been conducted more than 220 times all over the country.

In Bicol, storytelling sessions have been held in Camarines Norte, Albay and Sorsogon through the bayanihan's Southern Luzon bureau. Jonas Cabiles Sabas

Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dehesa

SPORTS

Caguioa lifts Gin Kings past Air21

By Mhaveg B. Castillo

MARK Caguioa returned from a six-match-missing-out injury and came up with a performance that inspired Barangay Ginebra no end last night.

Caguioa finished with 15 points and three others scored in twin digits as the Gin Kings bombarded Air21, 107-85, to stay dare PBA Governors' Cup supremacy on a hot note at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

In the second game, Meralco subdued injury-depleted Talk 'N Text, 110-99.

"It's such a blessing that Mark was given a clearance to play by the doctors," said coach Joel Tanamor. "For sure, Mark is the soul of this team."

Tanamor, noted that Caguioa was "still a bit rusty, understandable, and he's still feeling his way around" but the 6-foot-5 guard hit good after his first attempt, a triple in the first quarter, for nothing but net.

Import Gabe Boureaux hit for 29 points, had 23 rebounds and six assists to

LATEST STANDINGS
(Start Semifinals)
(After Elimination)
6-5 to go — Pinamalo
to Semifinals
7-10 to go — 8 Ging
to Semifinals

an impressive Ginebra debut, while Allen Mallari, a young talent returning from a knee injury, had 13 points in 10 minutes coming off the bench.

But the night mostly belonged to Caguioa, who lost three rookie age awards even sure if he could return for the season after an accidental fall from 8-Magic James Yap last March 30 broke his right orbital socket.

"It feels really good to be back on the court with [team guys]," Caguioa, who wore protective glasses and will likely do so for the rest of his career, added. "I just need to lose weight and in a few more games I think I'll be alright."

CONQUEST! Cedric Bozeman (right) sends the ball down. Air21's Zachary Graham

Ilya Bria Pabualt scored 23 and James Yap 21 for the Express, who put Jose Emmanuel in reserved list after a repeated run-in with coach Pedro Pumaren during practice two weeks ago when Daniel Ildefonso injured hand in practice.

INQ

The Score

GINEBRA (95)—Bozeman 29 (Caguioa 9, Mallari 7, Ayaay 6, Ildefonso 5, Cabagnot 5, Ahhomad 5, Ferrer 4, Ilagan 3, Ebona 2, Tiongson 2, Wilson 1, Urbiztondo 0, Jamito 0, Cruz 0, Cortez 0, Ramos 0) Air21 (99)—Graham 23, Mercado 20, Cardona 15, Pingris 12, Salvacion 6, Arboleda 5, Mangahas 4, Fonacier 4, Thoss 3, Nieto 3, Ilagan 2, Ilagan 0, Ilagan 0, Ilagan 0

Table Tennis Achievers clinic up

YOUNG TABLE tennis patrons Kevin and Bettina Sy, both students of British School Manila, will support 15 talented students when they hold the 2012 Table Tennis Achievers clinic starting today at the Ateneo Table Tennis Training Center in Rockpoint, Quezon City.

"Our country is blessed with many young talented athletes who excel in sports but many of them lack those good talent and passion. I have no reason to acquire the proper training and equipment," said Kevin, who last previously joined for the Xavier School table tennis varsity team and won gold in the PSAA tourney.

The clinic, confined to students 12 years and below, is supported by Ayenes de Manila University president Jun Villarin, Ateneo Athletics Director Bobby Palma and the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines headed by Ting Lukmann. Other backers are Leo Jusay, Sunny Hagen Bautista and Jimbo.

Ateneo Program Head and senior head coach Floyd Lubaton is tasked to select the 15 students who show potential and passion for the sport from the different public schools and orphanages in Bakhilan.

Three-time national junior champion Mario Benitez and son Michael Benitez, also a five-time Palarong Pambansa titlist, will serve as trainers during the clinic which will run up to Saturday.

Smart-Head jr satellite starts Monday

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HOPING to provide the national team with fresh, young talents, the Smart-Head Junior satellite tennis open in 11th season with the Manila leg set May 28 to June 3 at the Mercafer tennis courts in Ortigas.

Some 100 players in five age groups will see action in the event which helped discovered the likes of Francis Casey Alcantara and Jason Rosario.

"Dream is seen as an expensive sport but the truth is this is one of the sports I think are ecu-really rewarding," said Smart Communications executive Noel Lorenzana, a former senior himself.

Lorenzana presided over the press launch yesterday at the Smart Tower in Makati along with Ejek Quimpo of Smart Sports, Arlene Tanchi of the sponsoring Chris Sports and Lito Tong, Virginia of Dynamic Sports which distributes Head equipment.

The Manila leg is the 12th stop of the city-hopping event where top players like 12-year-old Gerard Gonzales and his 14-year-old brother Angelo Gonzales are also slated to compete.

Linda said the P4-million tournament aims to discover unrecognized tennis talents from the grassroots.

The winners of Batmanbun and Mcdonalds blossomed after dominating their respective age group divisions a few years back. Batmanbun is now the highest ranked Filipino at 450th in the men's circuit, while Adamson competes in the US NCAA division 1 with Francis Casey Alcantara members of the Philippine Davis Cup squad.

The tournament has had stops in Davaogenic, Iloilo, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

Villanueva powers V-Mobile to victory

By Jose Navarro

SARANGANI—Orlie Villanueva put on the red jersey before a throng of acclaimed roadside fans and is third just like after the V-Mobile sprinter led his team to victory in the team time trial yesterday that kicked off the 13-leg 2012 LBC Ronda Pilipinas cycling road show.

Villanueva, a veteran of eight multistage blockbusters in 18-year cycling career, joined his Nueve Kalo-based teammates to the finish, clocking 26 minutes and 38 seconds in a furious race against the clock covering a distance of 20.6 kilometers that began and ended at Sarangani's provincial capitol grounds.

The wiry-built driver from San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, will don the leader's yellow jersey as supported by Ayenes de Manila University president Jun Villarin, Ateneo Athletics Director Bobby Palma and the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines headed by Ting Lukmann. Other backers are Leo Jusay, Sunny Hagen Bautista and Jimbo.

Ateneo Program Head and senior head coach Floyd Lubaton is tasked to select the 15 students who show potential and passion for the sport from the different public schools and orphanages in Bakhilan.

Three-time national junior champion Mario Benitez and son Michael Benitez, also a five-time Palarong Pambansa titlist, will serve as trainers during the clinic which will run up to Saturday.

V-MOBILE Team posted the fastest time during the team trial challenge in LBC Ronda Pilipinas 2012 in Sarangani Province yesterday

James, Wade sizzle as Heat torch Pacers

MIAMI—Both LeBron James and Dwyane Wade on fire, the Miami Heat punished the Indiana Pacers, 115-83, on Tuesday to take a 3-2 lead in their NBA Eastern Conference playoff series final.

James had 30 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists while Wade put up 28 points as Miami took command of the best-of-seven series with the club's third-biggest winning margin in a post-season game.

The build-up to the game had featured plenty of tough talking from the Pacers, in particular Forward Danny Granger, but just as in game three, Miami showed they are at their best when provoked.

Nonetheless the league is likely to be looking at several incidents in the game, particularly Bayless' fouls from the Heat's Udonis Haslem and a late elbow from teammate Dexter Pittman on Lance Stephenson.

It was a physical battle at times from the outset and Granger knew he needed the Heat off their stride—they outscored the Pacers 22-2 in fastbreak points, the high-flying Wade and James delivering on the bulk of those. Miami led 40-40 at halftime, making the half with rare emphatic baskets from James—a sign of things to come in a one-sided second half.

Roy made it enough to be within one of the Pacers' last after halftime with a spirited audible sustained late in the second quarter, and without him Indiana were unable to cope with an inspired James.

In one unnerving play, as Miami ran away with the game in the third quarter, James took a long pass from Mario Chalmers one-handed and, falling backwards, lobbed a pinpoint cross-court pass to his fellow All-Star.

Wade's were fast and direct in transition and there was never a hint of it as part of the Pacers' Game Three end win which had raised questions over whether the Heat could advance without the injured Chris Bosh.

The league's Most Valuable Player Award winner was in Rondo's way around Miami's home advantage, was able to take some out at the start and end of the fourth quarter.

Miami's supporting cast have taken some criticism but forward Shane Battier set the tone with a trio of early three-point shots and he ended with 13 points while Haslem chipped in with 10 points and six rebounds.

The Heat ran-seniors their place in the final against the Boston Celtics or Philadelphia 76ers with a win in both sequels on Thursday.

Despite Tuesday's overwhelming 32-point win, Heat coach Erik Spoelstra is sure this team will have a tougher test back on the road.

Pacers' head coach Frank Vogel sees adjustments to make as well and Granger's ankle problem, the Pacers will also be hoping that forward David West recovers from a knee injury that restricted his minutes in the second half. —Reuters

SPORTSWATCH

Businessman tops poker leg

A 34-YEAR-OLD businessman from Makati who started playing poker barely a year ago raked the Philippine Poker Tour's inaugural leg Monday at the Metro Card Club in Pasay City.

Dexter Bryant Lora, a doctor by profession, came back from the brink of elimination in the final table to pocket the PhP120,000 top prize. The PhP1.7 million tournament after beating Joseph San Diego, a 44-year-old engineer, in a thrilling heads-up contest.

Lora served a spot to the final Table of Dennis Ang in Match-seed pool.

TRS Castrol Kids gear up

THE CASTROL-TUNAYON Racing School (TRS) Kids Team gears up for another intense campaign as the National Karting Series stages its third legs at the Boondocks Kart Track of the CCP Complex in Pasay City.

Ryan Jarlen will spearhead the 6th campaign and will be supported by Mike Cervantes and JC Tayson in the Castrol-TRS Kids Team powered by Castrol Performance, Standard Insurance, El Mag, Jolen, CMP, Color Zinc, Oakley, Agulo and Tequila.

Jarlen teases for another showdown with Gabriel Cabrera in the Mini ROK division.

AMERICAN participants with traditional lady worker Quang Ha Cruz

8 entries show way in NCA World Championship Derby

EIGHT entries paced the field with 2 points each after the first day of the National Cockers Amateur (NCA) World Championship Derby last Tuesday with another topnotch bunch of runners plunging two series today at Tuason Sports Arena in Pasig.

Today's second day of elimination derby features many of the country's top cockers and breeders, among them Quang Ang, Gerry Ramos, Manuly Tolentino, Henry Ong, Joey and Jose Mercado, Ronnie Roman, Henry Tan, James Uy Cofiankin, Gov. Hans, Sen. Bong Revilla, Mayor Strike Revilla, and Joel and Danny Tiron.

Yesterday's Derby action in the international derby sponsored by Sagupan Complexo and billed as the "Cockpit of Cockfighting" is expected to be duplicated today according to the NCA.

The entry "LIC" of Bong Penalba, "LUC Pinasaya" of T. Sevilla, "Hasan" of Ramon Mendezona, "CPR JOT AMO" of Rep. Claude Bautista, "SF Firefly 13" of Bobet Uy, "TM Tapi" of Tet Manzano, "HH Hemagmanan" of Boy Torres, and "Cocoa" of Gerry Peralta showed the way with perfect 2 points.

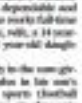
In 1 points: "Sky 1 Parasite" of Boy Lumocso, "Sir Dakot" of Mrs. Tuason Bender" of Jun Cruz, "Mr Miracle" of Dodo Christian, "Makata" of Pipo Tiu, Atlanta "Sir Sagupan" of Melvin Dela Cruz, "Sir Dakot" of Mrs. Tuason Bender, Jun Cruz, and Atlanta Cruz, "SF Trolls 13" of Cesar Gamboa and Rebel Jr., "RDC" of Rene Cabes.

"SCORPION" of Mrs Tuason, "Lucky" and "Sagupan" of Mayor Dan Sagupan, "LBC Pinasaya Champion" of Gerry Peralta and Mrs. Tuason, "Blue of Bagyan" of Johnny Jalandoni, "Little Hercules" and "Sir Dakot" of Mrs. Tuason, "Scorpion-MR-ADG" of Betty Alberto, "Sir Dakot" of Ruby Alonso, "Sagupan Champion" of Mayor Dan Sagupan, "Mercenary-MR" of Manny Ho, "Lucky Charm Sagupan Champion" of Mrs. Tuason, "Mercenary 12" of Jun Dolores Cruz, "Hasan" of Ramon Mendezona, "Sir Dakot" of Mrs. Tuason Bender, "Sir Dakot" of Mrs. Tuason Bender, "SF Firefly 13" of Bobet Uy, "Sir Sagupan" of Melvin Dela Cruz, "Sir Sagupan" of Melvin Dela Cruz, and "Sir Dakot" of Mrs. Tuason Bender.

One Filipino father's desperate prayer

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



Grande (Andy) Rivera was one of the 3,104 illegal aliens and immigrants arrested in a nationwide sweep by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers.

Andy is a doting father to his children, a loving husband, and a productive member of his community. He is a dependable and hardworking employee who works full-time to support his family (Nicole, wife, a 14-year-old son, Marcelo, and his 5 year-old daughter, Leila.)

Andy participates actively in the non-profit of his two children, also in his son's orchestra (straight 4's), sports (football and baseball), and other aspects of parenting.

***

As a young adult, Andy experienced difficulties, a story of a young and impressionable immigrant seeking to stick to fit in his new environment.

Andy came to the US as an eight-year-old. In his desire to be accepted in his adopted country, he fell victim to peer pressure and succumbed to willful influence of his friends/friends.

Andy is not violent. Neither is he unseasoned. In fact, he struggled to break away from his former after seeing first-hand the negative effects of drugs and.

He successfully turned around his life and is now a responsible member of his community.

He went back to school, finished a course, is gainfully employed, got married and now looked back to a once troubled past.

We hope you will consider the circumstances surrounding Andy's challenges that led him to excessive bad judgment.

Andy is a good person—a loving and caring man. He made a mistake but paid for it dearly and he deserves a second chance, one he truly needs since he has no family as his full, no home and no job in a country he left decades ago.

Here he has his children, parents, siblings, and friends who are all praying for his freedom. We ask his mentors a job that is left open for him by his considerate bosses.

My wife and I are elderly and currently out in the limit of health. And, we still have not recovered from the sudden demise of our daughter, Christine, who died last year at a young age of 39. But this letter of appeal is not at all about us. Andy's two children, who need his love and support, is the compelling reason for our request.

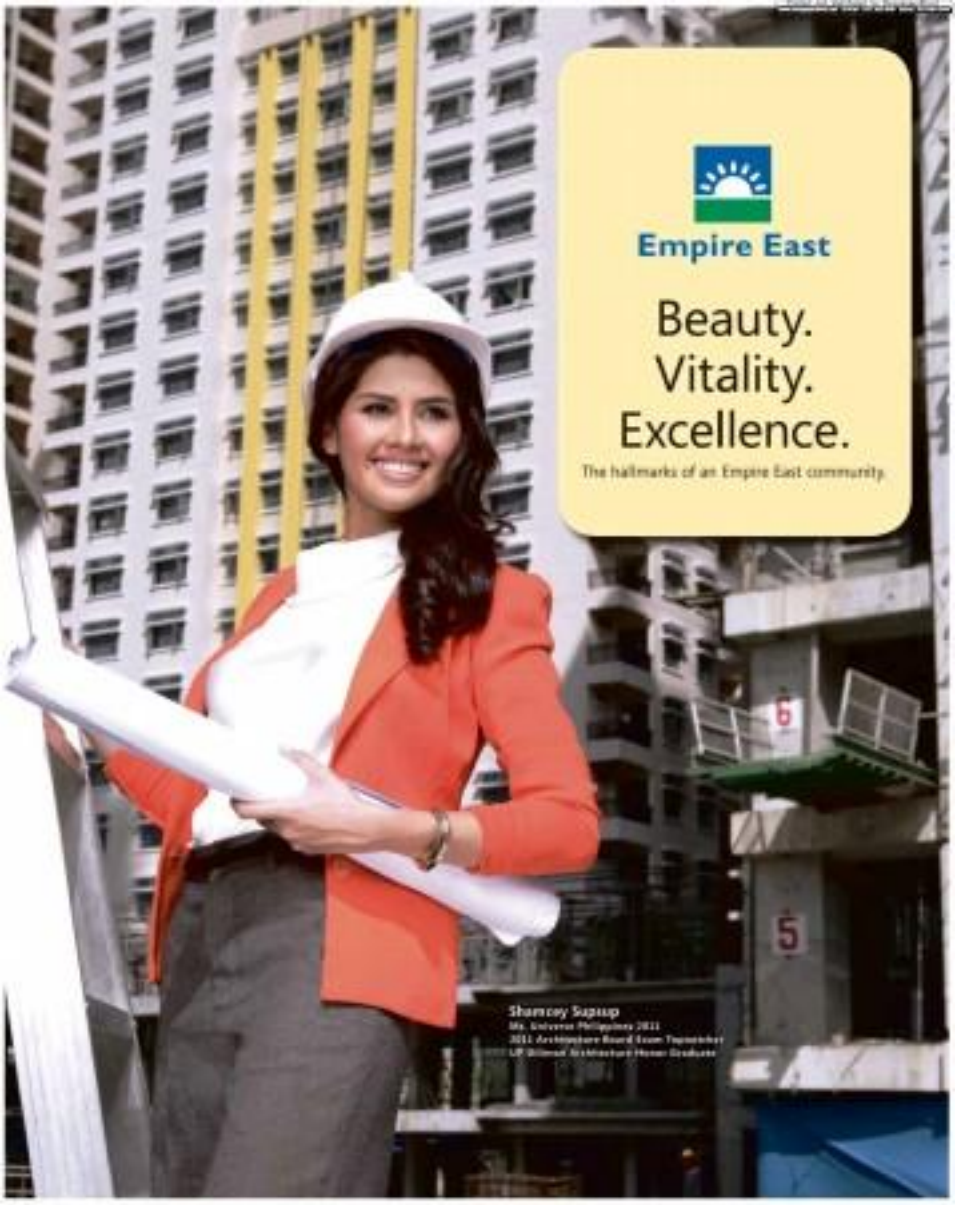
***

Right now, Nika and Leila, who both adore their father, are experiencing the darkest hours of their lives. Losing a mother, ing father will devastate them, a tragedy that is detrimental in their growing years. In fact, Leila is so depressed, constantly crying and confused.

Kindly bestow kindness on our grandchildren who've done nothing to deserve losing a loved one. Andy has since led a productive life and is looking forward to supplementing his great plans for the future of his family.

We in turn sorrowing soul who has stood in the past, paid for his mistakes and has since learned from it to lead a responsible life since his full rehabilitation.

Very grateful,
Bernardo and Celestina Rivera
Parents of Andy Grande Rivera
450-52 Bartlett Street
Bernardo Ca. 94590



THE SONOMA

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Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

NINE of the top ten cities in the country with the highest income from local sources in 2008 were from the National Capital Region, according to research data from the National Statistical Coordination Board. The top ten cities were Makati, Quezon City, Manila, Pasig, Pasay, Mandaluyong, Caloocan, Parañaque, Cebu and Taguig. —Zahabi Gavilan, Inquirer Research

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Cops suing cops: QCPD vs CIDG

District chief says 15 officers intervened in arrest of 2 convicts

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE HEAD of the Quezon City Police District yesterday said criminal charges would be filed against 15 policemen from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) based in Camp Crame who allegedly tried to take the two women who were arrested by his men last week.

QCPD director Chief Supt. Marin De la Vega said the CIDG people "intervened and assisted" three of his men to prevent them from taking custody of Marilyn Ong and Edna Alburos, who had been arrested by a Manila court for violation of the bouncing checks law.

The CIDG members would be charged with obstruction of justice, grave threats and physical injuries, De la Vega told the reporter in an interview.

De la Vega said Ong was also the subject of a criminal case in the United States involving a $60-million scheme to defraud the Export-Import Bank.

He said the Belgian Embassy, on behalf of the Unified Field Corp., also filed a civil case against the two women over the questionable lease of a property owned by the Kingdom of Belgium.

De la Vega said that based on the records of the National Bureau of Investigation, Ong and Alburos had up to 22 complaints filed against them at the agency and 16 cases pending in various courts in Metro Manila.

The two women were arrested separately based on warrants issued in January 2011 by Manila Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 1. The first to fall was Ong, who was arrested by a decision team from the QCPD in Alabang, Muntinlupa City on May 16.

De la Vega said Ong agreed to cooperate with the team in getting in Alburos, by serving a meeting later that day with the latter at a house in Hamungay Teachers Village in Quezon City.

But when Alburos showed up at the place, De la Vega said, she was already accompanied by CIDG personnel. This led to a confrontation between the QCPD team and the CIDG team, he said.

He surmised that the two women, prior to the meeting, had apparently reported to and convinced the CIDG that Ong had been "kidnapped" by armed men.

"Those fugitives (Ong and Alburos) were that good in double-talk," De la Vega said.

The district director also explained that contrary to what CIDG personnel had earlier claimed, the operation to arrest Ong and Alburos had his go-signal, making it "a valid and legitimate operation."

"I signed (the papers) for the conduct of the operation based on the sentence of arrest," the police official said, adding that proper coordination with other authorities in the areas of operation was observed.

He said QCPD's assessment was also sought by businessman Thomson Lim, the private complainant in the P5.5- million bouncing checks case in Manila.

De la Vega said the CIDG personnel assisted the QCPD arresting team when they arrived at the designated meeting place in Teachers Village. "They (ong men) were immediately arrested, handcuffed and forced to lie spread-eagle on the ground," De la Vega said.

He said the CIDG personnel, angered the documents showed by the QCPD policemen.

De la Vega said his men were eventually were able to prevent the CIDG personnel from leaving with the fugitives when a backup team the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit responded to the scene.

"My men managed to hold their ground and did not allow the CIDG personnel to leave with the arrested felons," De la Vega said.

Ong and Alburos were brought yesterday before Director Alex Paredana, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City. With a report from Miko Morales

PARK MAINTENANCE
In a scene of fleeting tranquility, mupa birds are lured to a trash can in a spot with some leftover 'relax'... that some bouncing left on a bench at Quezon Memorial Circle.

BOMBOG: I'm aghast

DILG chief sacks 7 PNP men for 'kotong' in Taytay

By DJ Yap

SEVEN POLICE officers in Taytay town in Rizal province were sacked today by Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo on complaints that they extorted money from jeepney and FX taxi drivers.

Initial investigation showed that aside from a monthly "protection money" worth P8,000 doled out by the local drivers association to the Taytay policemen, the latter also allegedly required all jeepney and FX taxi drivers to pay P30 each time they passed through the Tikling area.

Relieved were Chief Insp. Raul C. Lucanieta, chief of the Tikling police traffic sector; Police Officer 2 Arnold Mabuti, PO1 Roi Hinarejo, PO1 Daniel Quines, PO1 Emmanuel Bacalangco, PO1 Reydan Elumpad, and PO1 Gorge Gonzales.

"I am aghast to learn that despite our nationwide campaign against licensing (extortion)" says, these police officers failed to mend their ways, reuniting and converting money from public utility drivers and other motorists in their self-promoted and concerned traffic violations against their would-be victims," Robredo said in a statement.

Senior Supt. Francisco Hesadiz, the senior police assistant to the DILG chief, earlier sent a memo from the PNP Office of Internal Security recommending the relief of the alleged indicting activities in Tikling.

"The daily P30 kotong among drivers being made by [Philippine Turkey] are allegedly being sustained in the Taytay PNP traffic sector office daily," the memo report said.

Earlier, Robredo ordered the relief and filing of charges against nine traffic policemen in Quezon City who allegedly extorted money from bus drivers anytime.

The secretary also ordered another officer from Cagan, Tarlac province, who allegedly did the same to members of a Region 1 athletic team that competed in Palawarog Pandacan, where one of Robredo's daughters was a delegate.

Aussie envoy gets hands dirty in Taguig school cleanup

THE OPPORTUNITY public school cleanup drive leading the resumption of classes in June found a VIP volunteer in Taguig City yesterday.

Australian Ambassador Bill Tweddell took part in Wednesday's Brigada Eskwela campaign at Silangan Elementary School.

Tweddell painted and cleaned classrooms along with Mayor Laarni Cayetano and other Brigada volunteers, mostly members of the community and city hall employees.

Staff members of the Australian Embassy will participate in the cleanup of five more schools in Taguig till Friday. The mission is also giving each school almost P68,000 worth of materials for minor repairs, according to the mayor's office.

"We are honored that Ambassador Tweddell decided to personally help us in providing our school children with clean classrooms when they go back to school on June 4," Cayetano said in a statement.

The mayor also announced that the city government would be raising its education budget this year to P200 million, double the P100 million allotted last year.

Tweddell reiterated the embassy's support to the city government not only in the Brigada program but also in disaster risk management under a project with Taguig dubbed RAGE (Building the Resilience and Autonomy of Metro Manila Communities vs Natural Disasters and Climate Change Impacts).

"Our support to Brigada Eskwela complements what we aim to do through the RAGE program... our support to Filipinos to take action in their local communities to protect and preserve their environment to help reduce vulnerability to natural disasters," Tweddell said. —Mike Morales

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THE UNWANTED The ornamental knife fish followed the Jaguar fish in invading the Laguna de Bay, and is now feared to be preying on native species like 'dalagis' and 'tungin' in the country's biggest freshwater lake.

LLDA: Spread of knife fish an opportunity, not crisis

By Nico Calleja

AS OF OCTOBER to manage public concerns over the spread of knife fish in Laguna de Bay, the head of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) says it will be exploring the good potentials of the ornamental and exotic fish.

Libre Acosta, Freedom Against Debt Coalition convenor and presidential candidate, said she would not even describe the proliferation of the fish as alarming and menacing.

Recent field surveys done by the LLDA in the east side of the lake showed that fishermen are getting 20-30 percent of knife fish in a ton of their catch. In Santa Cruz, Siniloan, Laguna, a local fisherman was able to catch a knife fish, which would indicate that it can swim upstream.

"We can turn a potential crisis into an opportunity," Acosta said, referring to the complaints of residents fishermen that their earnings had declined due to the presence of the knife fish.

Most knife fish species come from Southeast Asia, specifically in Thailand, Borneo in Malaysia, India and Sumatra in Indonesia.

According to the LLDA, the oldest grow fish found in the Laguna Lake could be from the Chinese or Thai family.

In aesthetic vocabulary only the popular "arowana" makes the knife fish a popular ornamental fish. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), however, has claimed that the knife fish is carnivorous and will compete with native fish in the lake.

The knife fish may have found their way into the lake in at least two ways, the LLDA said in a statement. It mentioned "escaping from an ornamental fish farm or aquarium and deliberate release into the waters of freshwater habitats that wanted to get rid of them."

Acosta said the widespread flood spawned by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in 2009 could have led to the proliferation of the fish in Laguna Lake. It was only this year that fishermen felt its presence. Our waters said it "may not need chemicals to control."

"The problem is the familiarity issue. On a wider scale, the people are not familiar with this fish. They don't know that knife fish is safe to eat and has a lot of uses. Thirdly, why it is cheaper in the market," Acosta said.

"Knife fish can be sold for only P30 a kilo in the market while tawgoo or tilapia costs about P100 a kilo," she said.

Acosta could only find what good benefits to be derived from knife fish. Compared to other more popular "native fish," he said, the knife fish has actually more commercial value.

While ornamental in nature, the knife fish is actually edible, he said. It can be farmed or hooked and can be cooked in curry or even in coconut milk.

In Thailand, he said, a steamed knife fish with garlic is a famous delicacy. Even a popular soup made from finely chopped knife fish. He also cited the BFAR's suggestion that the knife fish can be preserved since the popular street food "fish balls," which can be prepared in other communities.

Like the native fish, the knife fish is being considered a competitor for liquid coal fertilizer, however said.

The fishermen's group Pamalakaya, however, said the LLDA suggestions were basic, pointing out other factors from the increase of fisherfolks' woes just 20 to 30 percent as the fish government agency claimed.

"The knife fish even prey on fingers, tilapia, big head carp and other fishery species in the lake for food, resulting in 90 percent income loss and fishery production to small, medium and corporate fishpen operators in Laguna Lake," said Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya chair.

Instead of just fishing them out of the water, the self-leaving group urged the LLDA to allow the entry of saltwater from the Manila Bay into the lake through the Napindan Hydraulic Control Structure to eliminate the presence of knife fish and other species in the 900,000-hectare lake.

The saltwater can do the cleansing, it said, but the government had "zero percentage in using its cost-cutting measures to protect our fishery from the increasing destruction of the knife fish."

At least 61 municipalities and cities in six provinces, including Metro Manila, are part of the Laguna de Bay region.

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Hell does not exist

IF THE CONTROVERSIAL Lady Gaga concerts were filled to the brim on Monday and Tuesday, the only ban the Catholic Church and self-appointed moral guardians and other publicists hounded to banish her.

All that shouting, sweeping and hair-pulling to show their disapproval of the international pop star just reversed the reverse effect.

More people, even those who didn't know Lady Gaga, were attracted by the noise and music to her concert.

* * *

Leading the dog pack in trying to tear the American recording artist into shreds was Batangas Archbishop Ramon Arguelles.

Lady Gaga's show, said the scandalous prince of the Catholic Church, "are in danger of falling into the clutches of Satan unless they are already there."

Arguelles warned that going to her concert was like "joining devil worship."

But were the faithful scared by the archbishop's threat of being doomed to eternal hellfire?

No! Arguelles has even become a laughingstock.

You see, many Catholics now believe that Satan is a nonexistent entity, a bogeyman.

Satan is like the nice little conscience instead of scaring the birds, it

reads up serving as a prediction theme.

* * *

Religious leaders who scare the hell out of their followers over the nonexistent Devil will one day find themselves preaching in empty pulpits.

If the unpredictable time of Satan or Lucifer—or whatever you call the personification of evil—continues to be belittled in the minds of the faithful, it would be easier when the love call comes.

There's Filipino mentor Tinoy to score a point when's long been scored."

Even crown cowards such a antiseptic point and lowest lower.

And so religious leaders who threaten their followers eternal damnation for their "sins" lose credibility when the followers find out eventually that the Devil's not a bogeyman.

Pope John Paul II, the most beloved of all popes, said that hell is a place does not exist.

World religions like Judaism, Christianity and Islam should stop touching their followers about a vindictive and jealous God.

They're portraying God as a petty entity capable of human senses.

* * *

Three religious leaders at that God is perfect.

If God is perfect, which He really is, then He is incapable of human error and/or jealousy and vindictiveness.

Think about it.

* * *

One hour before Chief Justice Renato Corona walked out of the lion's den to testify on behalf of his wife, who is accused of unexplained wealth, my friend said she could sense that the chief magistrate was going to have a heart attack.

She told me she could "see" Corona having a heart attack while he was reading his prepared speech before the senator-judges as part of his defense.

And when Corona stood up and walked out of the hall without being given the permission of the court, my hunch stood on end.

Okay, she was a little off-target in her prediction because Corona's blood sugar count went down considerably, still, it was like-minded.

How did the predict that Corona would have a life-threatening emotional upheaval?

Tondo folk doubt fire was 'accidental'

By Jaymee T. Gamil

RESIDENTS of Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, Manila, are unconvinced that the fire that razed their community on May 11 was an accident.

"They expressed skepticism at the idea that the fire was caused by a child playing with candles," said Tondo Councilor Dennis Alcoreza.

"The fire spread too fast. They had a wax investigated," said Alcoreza, who hosted out the fire victims at a Manila evacuation center.

Alcoreza and another councilor, Ernesto Dionisio, passed a resolution last week for the council to hold hearings to investigate the fire that left homeless more than 5,000 people, mainly from the community's Purok 1 and 2. Yesterday's hearing was attended by members of District 1, Fire Station, fire-residents, and a representative from the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

Alcoreza said the residents' suspicion that the fire was not accidental was bolstered by the BFP's initial finding that its report on the cause of the fire came from only a single witness, the police. But he also added that the BFP investigation is still going on.

The fire victims also questioned the Philippine Ports Authority for preventing them from rebuilding their homes which had stood on PPA property. The fire victims had sought for two weeks reprieve to rebuild and the breakdown of the PPA property.

In a letter to the Manila city government after the fire, the PPA appealed for help to relocate the residents to the area where they had erected their temporary evacuation center.

"Why are we being asked to leave at this time when we have just suffered the loss of our homes? It makes us think that perhaps, the fire had not been an accident, that it was deliberately started," said the Samahang Ilaya-ang Isla Puting Bato, Tondo Inc. in a letter to the city council.

The victims have been relocated to the Del Pan Sports complex in Tondo while those for their relocation, supposedly to Bulacan, are being processed by the National Housing Authority.

The fire victims appealed to the city council to help them continue the PPA, to allow them to rebuild pending temporary shelters from the remains of their destroyed homes, while plans for their relocation are being worked out.

"While the matter is still under discussion, why not declare the area of the burning area for our eventual relocation? The Del Pan Sports complex is so crowded and many have already fallen ill," they said in their letter, signed by then president, Monico Diocno, 61, officers.

Alcoreza said that since the fire victims were not allowed to bring in construction materials to rebuild their homes, some have been living in tents at the site of their burned homes.

"We are not opposed to the plans for our place but we think now for those in the tents, they will die with the process guaranteed as the Tatlan Development Housing Act. Don't do it through the use of force and by banning doctor outhouses because we are also human beings who ought to be treated in a humane manner," Ulbo said.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chonco

US presidential race tightening

WASHINGTON—US voters are nearly evenly divided between President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney with five months to go before the election, especially on handling the economy, polls show.

OBAMA AND ROMNEY: Locked in deadlock

With US unemployment still hovering above 8 percent, both candidates have stepped up their emphasis on jobs and the economy. Obama and Romney have offered a starkly differing vision of how the economy should work as they appeal to voters who say jobs are the foremost issue in the November elections.

A new Washington Post-ABC News poll shows Obama and Romney locked in a dead heat over handling the economy. They are tied at 47 percent.

Overall, 46 percent said they backed Obama for reelection and 46 percent preferred Romney, a statistically insignificant difference. Other recent national polls show a similarly close margin.

Earlier polls generally showed the former Massachusetts governor holding a slight lead over Obama on economic issues and Obama slightly ahead overall.

But the tightening follows an aggressive attack on Romney's business credentials by the Obama campaign, including ads painting him as a job-hurtling vulture raider at Bain Capital, the private-equity firm he cofounded.

The Obama campaign has focused on two companies that were closed down or folded after they were absorbed into the web of enterprises under Bain Capital. Romney maintains financial ties to the company but left it years ago to run the Salt Lake City Olympics games and then to serve as Massachusetts governor.

Romney rolled the attacks "character assassination." But Obama defended the tactic on Monday as legitimate and suggested Romney's background would be a central issue in the White House drive being president involves more than "moonlighting profits."

The survey found that 60 percent of Americans still hold a negative view of the economy, but 54 percent said they felt more positively about the economic situation in the coming years, and 56 percent felt the financial prospects would improve.

Line of attack

The president says the drive for profit is "not always going to be good for communities or the country as a whole."

The Obama campaign's line of attack illustrates the president's complicated relationship with the business community. He has used populist language to attack Wall Street executives and bankers as "fat cats" and rolled for an end to tax subsidies for oil and gas companies, but he also expanded the government's revenue of the sum industry and has promoted tax breaks for small businesses.

While some of his Wall Street support has waned, he still draws a significant amount of campaign contributions from major investors, maintaining a good relationship with, among others, billionaire investor Warren Buffett.

Romney's campaign has welcomed the debate on jobs.

"President Obama confirmed today that he will continue his attacks on the free enterprise system," Romney said on Monday.

"What this election is about is the 23 million Americans who are still struggling to find work and the millions who have lost their homes and have fallen into poverty. President Obama refuses to accept moral responsibility for his failed policies. My campaign is offering a positive agenda to help America get back on track."

New arena

On Wednesday, Romney planned to make him a new policy arena—the US submarine system—in an effort to broaden his focus on appeal to general election voters.

The prospective Republican presidential nominee, who has been reluctant to stray far from economic issues, is expected to outline a proposal for improving education in a speech at the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington.

Romney preached Obama's education policy while speaking to donors in New York City on Tuesday evening, saying the administration is too closely tied to teachers' unions who make large donations to the Democratic Party. AP

Iran ready to end nuke standoff, says Russia

MOSCOW—Russia on Wednesday said that Iran appeared ready to agree specific steps to end a standoff over its nuclear program but warned that additional US sanctions would undermine efforts to convince Tehran does not develop atomic weapons.

Speaking in Moscow as a meeting between Iran and six global powers began in Baghdad, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said expert-level meetings had indicated Tehran, often accused by Western states of playing for time, was more prepared for serious negotiations.

"We get the clear impression from those preliminary contacts that the Iranian side is ready to seek agreement on concrete actions within the framework of an approach based on the principles of gradual, reciprocal steps," Lavrov said. Reuters

North Korea upgrading rocket launch site, says US think tank

WASHINGTON—Satellite imagery shows North Korea is upgrading its old launch site in the secretive country's northeast to handle larger rockets, like space launch vehicles and intercontinental missiles, a US institute claimed on Tuesday.

The 38 North, a monitor at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies said the upgrade of the Musudan-ri site began last summer and reflected North Korean determination to expand its rocket program.

The United States and other nations are worried such activities could be developed to deliver nuclear weapons.

North Korea on Tuesday vowed to push ahead with its nuclear program because of "the US hostile policy and nuclear threat." The international community is pressuring North Korea to refrain from conducting what would be its third nuclear test, following a failed attempt in mid-April to launch a satellite into space.

That launch, using its biggest rocket to date, the Unha-3, was from a more sophisticated site at Sohae on the country's southwestern coast.

An April 29 aerial image of Musudan-ri on the opposite coast shows the initial stages of construction of a launch pad and rocket assembly building that could support rockets at least as big as the Unha-3, the institute said.The documented Press.

Major upgrade

A crane is visible where the launch pad is being built 1.8 kilometers from the old one. At the current pace of construction, the facilities should be operational by 2016-2017, the institute said.

"This major upgrade program, designed to enable Musudan-ri to launch bigger and better rockets far into the future, represents both a significant resource commitment and an important sign of North Korea's determination," said Joel Wit, editor of the institute's website, 38 North.

According to the institute, the assembly building shows similarities to one at the Sohae launch complex in Iran, which has a long history of missile cooperation with North Korea.

But officials there say it's premature to conclude the two nations cooperated in designing the new facility.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service on Tuesday said that it could not comment on whether it had detected any new activity at the Musudan-ri launch site. Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Magazine wins rare court ruling for Burma media

RANGOON—A private news magazine in Burma's Myanmar) won a rare court victory on Wednesday and will not have to reveal the name of a reporter who wrote about corruption at government ministries. "The Voice" weekly still faces a defamation suit over the article published in March. The initial court ruling means it will be allowed to protect its reporter's name. lawyer Nyi Nyi Khet told The Associated Press. Lawsuits involving the media are a rare development in Burma and part of an easing of censorship under the reform-minded government that took office last year. AP

Prostitution scandal wider than previously thought

WASHINGTON—Several small groups of Secret Service employees' sexual activities clashed duties, bars and brothels in Colombia prior to a visit by President Barack Obama last month and engaged in reckless, "morally repugnant" behavior, a US senator says. Sen. Susan Collins says the employees' actions during the stunning prostitution scandal could have provided a foreign intelligence service, drug cartels or other criminals with opportunities for blackmail or coercion that could have threatened the president's safety. In remarks prepared for the first congressional hearing on the matter on Wednesday, Collins also challenged early assurances that the scandal in Colombia appeared to be an isolated incident. The senator from Maine noted that two participants were Secret Service supervisors—one with 21 years of service and the other with 22 years—and both were married. Their involvement "surely sends a message to the rank and file that this kind of activity is tolerated on the road," Collins said. "This was not a one-time event," said Collins, the senior Republican on the Senate committee on homeland security and governmental affairs committee. "The circumstances unfortunately suggest an issue of culture." AP

Student to plead guilty for threatening Obama

MIAMI—A Miami college student plans to plead guilty in federal court to threatening President Barack Obama on Facebook. A plea hearing is set for Wednesday after term for 20-year-old Joaquin Amador Serrano. If the attorney says he intends to plead guilty to one count of threatening to kill or harm the president. Federal prosecutors say Serrano posted threats on Facebook in February when Obama was in Miami to give a speech. The posts threatened to put a bullet in the president's head and asked if anyone wanted to help in a presidential assassination. There's no indication Serrano intended to act on the threats. His lawyer says Serrano never wanted to hurt the president. Serrano faces a maximum five-year prison sentence. He attends Miami Dade College and is also a rock musician. AP

A one-person bull? Lady Gaga unsure of show

JAKARTA—Lady Gaga is so confused as anyone about whether she'll be allowed to perform in Indonesia. Islamic hard-liners have threatened violence, saying her sexy clothes and provocative dance moves could corrupt youth. Police initially denied a permit for the "Born This Way Ball" but are now leaning the concert could proceed if the pop diva's rotund dorset the show. She headed Tuesday. "The Jakarta situation is 2-fold: Indonesian authorities demand I censor the show & religious extremist separately, are threatening violence if the show does go on as scheduled. I will perform the G'd Bull alone." What she meant wasn't clear, and her promoters have not commented. Indonesia, a predominantly Muslim nation of 240 million people, was supposed to be the biggest show on Lady Gaga's global tour. AP

Stage set for Merkel-Hollande showdown at EU summit

BRUSSELS—European leaders will try to breathe life into their stricken economies at a summit over dinner on Wednesday, but disagreement over austerity and mutual eurozone bonds and whether they can alleviate two years of debt turmoil will dominate the gathering.

For the first time in more than two years of debt-crisis summits, the leaders of France and Germany have not held their own, prior summit beforehand to agree positions, marking a significant shift in the traditional Franco-German axis.

Instead, new French President Francois Hollande will meet Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy in Paris to discuss policy before the pair travel to Brussels for the 1800 GMT summit.

Despite fears that Greece could exit the currency bloc, Spain, where the economy is in recession and the banking system is in need of wholesale recapitalizing, is at the frontline of the crisis, with concerns that it could follow Greece, Ireland and Portugal in needing a bailout.

Hollande's election victory has significantly changed the terms of the debate in Europe, with his call for greater emphasis on growth now a rallying cry for other leaders.

That has set up a showdown with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who supports growth but whose primary objective is budget austerity and deficit-cutting. While Merkel and former French President Nicolas Sarkozy did not always see eye-to-eye, in Hollande she is faced by someone with a different vision.

In his first EU summit, Hollande has also chosen to make a stand on euro bonds—the idea of mutualising eurozone debt—despite resistance. German opposition to an idea that has been hotly debated for more than two years.

He will have support from Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, among other leaders, that the time has come to sign off dropping her objections to the proposal, which she has said can only be discussed once there is much closer fiscal union in Europe.

The Netherlands, Finland and some smaller eurozone countries are supportive of Merkel in that position, setting the stage for what could be a divisive discussion. Austria's chancellor supports Hollande's line, but the finance minister backs Merkel's. Reuters

Egyptians vote in first free presidential polls

CAIRO—Nearly a year and a half after the ouster of autocrat leader Hosni Mubarak, millions of Egyptians lined up for hours outside polling stations on Wednesday to finally choose a president for the first time in an election that pits old regime figures promising stability against moderate Islamists seeking to consolidate power.

The two-day vote will bring down the final curtain on decades of authoritarian rule, although concerns remained that the nation's military rulers who took over after Mubarak could try to retain influence.

Egyptians were hopeful as they waited patiently for their chance to cast a ballot in an unprecedentedly open race, with some 50 million eligible voters.

The ouster of his 30-year rule, Mubarak—like his predecessors—was unopposed in presidential referendums. Banquet fund guaranteed ruling party victories in parliamentary elections. Four years, in 2005, Mubarak let challenger oppose him in elections, he ended up not only trouncing his liberal rival but jailing him.

"I can die in a matter of months, so I came for my children, so they can live," a tearful Hadhar Ibrahim, 58, who suffers from cancer, said as he waited to vote in a poor district south of Cairo. "We want to live better, like human beings."

The generals who assumed control after the revolution have promised to hand over power by July 1, ending a turbulent transition period defined by deadly street clashes, a flailing economy, a surge of crime and human rights abuses.

"It's a miracle," said Sabra Abdel-Hadi, a 40-year-old Cinderella from the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria as she was about to vote. "And it's a beautiful feeling too."

Thirteen candidates were contesting the election, with four front-runners either from the Islamist camp or linked to the old regime. Ahmed Shafiq, a former prime minister under Mubarak, is the candidate of the military establishment, while Islamist Mohamed Morsi is the standard-bearer of the Muslim Brotherhood, which has been the most organised political force since the uprising.

Shafiq's campaign has been boosted by a surge of support from Egypt's Christian minority, who fear the Islamists will impose their conservative values on the country. Shafiq has also benefited from the backing of many of the country's business elite, who see him as the best guarantor of stability.

Morsi, a US-educated engineer, has sought to reassure Egypt's secular-minded majority that the Brotherhood will not seek to impose its strict interpretation of Islamic law. He has also promised to appoint a woman and a Christian as his deputies if he wins the presidency.

Two other candidates are also seen as having a chance of reaching the second round run-off on June 16-17. The winner will be announced on June 21. AP

VOCES AURORAE CONCERT

Noted composer and classical recording conductor Mark Anthony Carpio of the Philippine Madrigal Singers delivered yet another choral feat with Voces Aurorae Concert at the Aurora Provincial Capitol Gym on Friday, May 25, 2012, 6:00PM since Philippine Independence. Joined this hours musical marathon. The concert highlights the talents of young girls aged 8 to 16 under the tutelage of the Madrigal choirmaster with various pieces from classical, liturgical, contemporary and pop. The event is the first concert of the Sarsuela of Hearts. Tickets may be purchased at the following points: Aurora Capitol Gym.

Formed in August 2007, the Voces Aurorae Girls Choir under the people of the Province Aurora (Tony Cortez) (DOST of Quezon City) was established by Governor to the road for the positive various participations in the numerous musical competitions. The choir regularly engages with the master technique and excellence. Our Lady of Annunciation Parish in Baler, Aurora's Angelus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Tayabas Village. The girls also performed in various concerts, recitals, and choral festivals in the country, and the Philippine Madrigal Singers during the inauguration of President Aquino and with several other choirs in the celebration of the World Youth Day, and performed and recorded in the recently launched CD "Angels on High" by the Jesus Communion Inc. (JESC) Christmas album.

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

ALI, Tantocos enter into retailing JV

Mall developer to take direct stake in upscale stores

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY giant Ayala Land Inc. is making a bigger bet on the Philippine consumer by diversifying into the retailing business, in partnership with the Tantoco family that owns upscale retailer Rustans group.

While ALI has been building shopping malls that are being leased out to retailers, the property giant now wants a direct stake in store operations and has signed a joint venture with the Tantocos' Specialty Investment Inc. (SII) to "pursue opportunities in the Philippine retail sector."

"We will explore all aspects of retail, which may include being a landlord or operating a retail business," ALI chief finances officer Jaime Ysmael said in a text message on Wednesday.

"The partnership with SII will enable ALI to support its mixed-use developments and, at the same time, grow its recurring income portfolio," ALI deputy compliance officer Pamela Ann Perez told the Philippine Stock Exchange.

SII is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Tantocos' Rustan Specialty Inc. (SSI), one of the largest retail companies in the Philippines, with the exclusive rights to sell, distribute and market in the country a variety of brands from around the world. Based on SSI's website, it carries over 50 luxury brands and 250 boutiques shopoccupying over 350,000 square feet of prime retail space.

SII brings into the country the brands that are being sold in the Rustans department stores and stand-alone shops. The Tantocos also operate the Debenhams and Starbucks franchises in the country.

"I think it's a positive development for ALI considering the expertise of their partner, the Ramon Group," said PNB-Securities deputy chief Manny Lahoza. "The move is a natural progression and was likely tracked in depth by ALI prior to making this decision."

"It seems that they would like to have a vertical integration. SII will be the landlord but at the same time they also own the stores given that they have a lot of upcoming projects, like in San Lazaro and the community projects

Just fit

INDICATOR

PSEi DOLLAR DEX
May 23, 2012
43.440

STOCK MARKET
May 23, 2012
29.9

PSEi dips ahead of crucial EU meet

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL STOCKS returned to negative territory on Wednesday, ending a two-day bounce, as regional markets turned cautious ahead of a crucial European Union leaders' meeting meant to contain the fiscal contagion.

The main index, Philippine Stock Exchange index lost 28.6 points, or 0.6 percent, to close at 4,308.02, reflecting struggles in trading across regional markets.

Most of the counters were down, especially the mining and oil sub-index which tumbled by 1.16 percent. Only the financial and property sub-index ended in the green.

Value turnover amounted to P5.16 billion. There were 48 advancers, which were

PSEi B2

Higher, new taxes needed for PH growth, WB says

By Michelle V. Rama

THE WORLD Bank has urged the Philippines to improve management of public finances and raise more taxes, noting it needs additional resources to beef up its capability to take advantage of new growth opportunities in the post-crisis era.

In its latest report on East Asia and the Pacific, the World Bank said the Philippines, together with a few other developing economies in the region, has to invest in technology, projects and programs that will boost domestic productivity.

Higher productivity, in turn, will help the country service growing needs for various goods from other developing economies.

As the United States and the euro zone continue to post anemic growth rates in the wake of the 2009 global recession, the World Bank said the Philippines and its neighbors can boost growth by intensifying intra-regional trade.

The World Bank said developing East Asian countries must take advantage of the "global rebalancing" that is now happening following the economic crisis.

Economists define "rebalancing" as the move of economies

Inquirer B4

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Uplifting Lives of Filipinos through Economic Growth

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Republic of the Philippines
IRB/SNRDP/CP1/338188
Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines
Secondary National Roads Development Project (SNRDP)
Contract Package CP1

11 May 2012

Dear Madam/Sir:

The Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines have entered into a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in the Philippines (the "Compact") in the amount of approximately 434 Million USD ("MCC Funding"). The Government, acting through the Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines (the "Employer"), intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of MCC Funding to eligible payments under a Contract associated with this Invitation for Bids ("IFB"). Payments by the Employer will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions, including restrictions on the use of MCC Funding, of the Compact. No party other than the Government and the Employer shall derive any rights from the Compact or have any claim to the proceeds of MCC Funding.

The Compact which would be implemented in a 5-year period,includes projects that would reduce poverty through economic growth, among others, the Secondary National Roads Development Project (SNRDP).

The SNRDP Road Project involves the construction/rehabilitation of existing roads and bridges that includes road widening, pavement strengthening, improved drainage and traffic calming measures. The project will incorporate enhanced safety measures in the final road designs including paved shoulders, construction of sidewalks and curbs where pedestrian activity is higher, improved road marking , installation of road furniture and the creation of a *"buffer zone"* through populated areas.

SNRDP Road Rehabilitation Project will be undertaken under the following four contracts located in Region II of the Philippines; Samar and Eastern Samar Provinces:

- **CP1:** *Contract Package CP1: "Road Rehabilitation, Buray Junction to Barangay Tinani (16.3 kms); Municipality of Paranas.*
- **CP2:** *Contract Package CP2: "Road Rehabilitation, Barangay Tinani to San Julian/Solist Municipal Boundary (63.8 kms)*
- **CP3:** *Contract Package CP3: "Road Rehabilitation, San Julian/Solist Municipal Boundary to Balangkayan/Lonoy's Municipal Boundary (64.6 kms)*
- **CP4:** *Contract Package CP4: "Road Rehabilitation, Balangkayan/Lonoy's Municipal Boundary to Guiuan (79.5 kms)*

The Employer now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the execution and completion of **Contract Package CP1**, which is being offered as a unit price contract based on the Bill of Quantities. The contract duration is 555 days. The anticipated commencement date of the contract is 9th September 2012.

The Bidding Documents will be provided to Bidders in electronic format at no cost.

Bidders must request the bidding documents by sending an e-mail or letter to the address indicated below, stating whether they prefer to pick up a CD/DVD copy or to download it from a web link that shall be provided to them. Bidders may obtain further information at the address given below:

Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines
c/o: Procurement Agent
Attention: Procurement Agent Manager / Procurement Director
Email: procurementagent@philippines.lbtci.com

A firm will be selected under the Competitive Bidding procedures described in this Invitation for Bids. Bidders are advised that these procedures are governed by the MCC Program Procurement Guidelines, accessible from http://www.mcc.gov/pages/business/guidelines. Although these procedures are similar to those set out in the *World Bank Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, there are several significant differences and firms are advised to review these instructions carefully.

Please note that a Pre-Bid Conference will beheld on **28 May 2012**, 10:00 hours Philippine Time, at the MCA-P Board Room, 2nd Floor DAP Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines.

The deadline for the submission of bids is **16 July 2012 at 10:00 Hours Philippine Time (GMT + 8.**

Bids must be submitted to the following address:

Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines
Procurement Agent Office
2nd Floor, Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Building
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1099, Philippines

The Bids will be opened publicly at the address below on
16 July 2012 at 10:00 Hours Philippine Time (GMT + 8

Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines
Board Room
2nd Floor, Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Building
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1099, Philippines

All Bids must be accompanied by a security in the form and amount specified in the Bidding Documents. Bidders should be aware that distance and customs formalities may require longer than expected delivery time. Late Bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Yours sincerely,

For MCA-Philippines:

(SGD.) ELEANORA E. TAN
Deputy Managing Director, Finance and Administration,
MCA—Philippines

(PR-May 24, 31 & Jun 7, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
KALAHI-CIDSS - 2nd NATIONAL PROJECT
Municipality of Mangaldan, Province of Pangasinan

INVITATION TO BID

The Municipality of Mangaldan, Pangasinan, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites duly PCAB licensed and eligible construction firms, individuals or locally based suppliers to apply for registration and to bid for the following contracts:

Name of Contract/Location	Source of Funding/Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1) Purchase of Canvas Bags with Reflectorized Printing - Mangaldan, Pangasinan	Total Funding: Php 1,000,000.00 (Grant for materials) Counterpart: Php 100,000.00 (Labor)

Prospective bidders shall be required to submit, among requirements, the company's track record of undertaking or similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC, Valid PCAB License and Mayor's/Business Permit, Tax Clearance, as well as the Omnibus Sworn Statement, in duly sealed envelopes. Non-submission of the required documents will be a ground for disqualification.

All interested bidders may inquire/obtain Bidding Documents (Bid Security, Performance Security, Post-Qualification Requirements, Terms of Reference, Technical Specifications, Plans, etc.) from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, Mangaldan, Pangasinan, and may be downloaded by the duly authorized representative (PCAB, BIR) and by implementing Teams and Regional Level PMO.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1	Bid Opening	May 15, 2012 (9:00 A.M.)
2	Bid Evaluation	May 15, 2012 (1:00 P.M.)
3	Post-Qualification	May 15, 2012 (3:00 P.M.)
4	Notice of Award	June 15, 2012
5	Contract Signing	June 15, 2012
6	Approval of Contract	June 15, 2012
7	Issuance of Notice to Proceed	June 15, 2012

Bids must be delivered at the address below on or before the date and time specified above. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders are invited to witness the opening of the bids. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Municipality of Mangaldan, Pangasinan reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

Municipal Building
Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075)553-2168

(PR-May 24, 2012)

Chemonics seeks senior and mid-level education specialists in the Philippines for an anticipated 4 year USAID-funded early grade reading project. The project will work to improve the reading skills of one million early grade children. The languages covered will be Filipino, English, and selected mother tongue languages. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference. Long- or short-term assignments will involve the following technical areas:

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- **Reading diagnostics**
- **Mother tongue instruction**
- **Reading advocacy**
- **Reading material development**
- **Curriculum development**
- **Other education-related areas, including gender, information technology, and private-public partnerships**

Qualifications:

- Masters degree, or equivalent combination of education and work experience in education-related field
- Minimum seven years of relevant experience in education with a focus in one of the technical areas listed above in the Philippines
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity
- Demonstrated ability to build the capacity of local partners and schools
- Experience working with nongovernmental organizations, national and local governments, and the private sector
- Proficiency in English required, please specify proficiency in other relevant languages

Application instructions: Send electronic submissions to: EastAsiaEducation@chemonics.com by **May 30, 2012.** No telephone inquiries, please. Finalists will be contacted.

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Notice is hereby given that three (3) sticks of Agent's Provisional Receipts bearing Nos. 47311 - 47320, 42811 - 42840 and 32511 - 32540 of the BPI/MS Insurance Corporation had been reported lost. Two (2) expired sticks bearing Nos. 97491 - 97500 and 92911 - 92920 have not been surrendered to BPI/MS Insurance Corporation as of to date.

(PR-May 24, 2012)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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ADB issues $1.2B in bonds

By Michelle V. Rerne

THE ASIAN Development Bank has sold $1.35 billion worth of bonds that attracted significant interest from global investors at a time when uncertainties in the market are dampening risk appetite.

In a statement, ADB said the proceeds of the bond offering would be used to boost its capital and support activities, besides concessional lending to member-countries.

The three-year global bonds carry an interest of 0.625 percent a year.

"We are quite pleased with the transaction and the broad interest from investors resulting in a book in excess of $1.25 billion with over 40 investors," ADB treasurer Hideo Kashiwagi said in the statement issued yesterday.

Although the bonds had attracted investors from different regions, with 32 percent of the sale being accounted for by investments from Asia, 22 percent from Europe, Middle East, and Africa, and 20 percent from the Americas.

The bulk, or 63 percent, of the bond sale was accounted for by purchases made by central banks and government-owned financial institutions, which prefer highly rated securities such as those issued by development institutions like the ADB.

ADB is a triple-A institution.

Fund managers accounted for 29 percent of the value of the bonds sold, while private banks and other institutions accounted for 17 percent.

ADB tapped Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, Nomura, and a syndicate group to arrange the transactions for the bond sale. The syndicate group was composed of Bank of America Merrill Lynch, BNP Paribas, Citigroup, Daiwa, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, RBC Capital Markets and SMBC.

Proceeds of ADB's latest bond sale put ADB closer to its target of raising $14 billion from capital markets this year to help finance its operations.

Just last week, ADB raised an equivalent of $329 million from sale of "Clean Energy Bonds" in the Japanese market. The sale was meant to raise funds for energy-related activities of member-countries that ADB wants to support.

Asian investors gobble up debt paper

Tax lobby dovey

BREAKTIME

Commodo & Bernard Ali

JUST between us girls, certain interest groups succeeded in misleading our leader Benigno Simeon (aka BS) on the pending "sin tax" bill in Congress.

As we all know, a lobby group has been pushing for changes in the excise tax on tobacco and liquor, spelled out in RA 9334, which was only passed in 2005, or less than seven years ago, providing for increases in the tax every two years.

For the tax on cigarettes, which was really just the target of our beloved congressmen, the law specified four different rates based on retail prices. The tax increases in the retail prices go up. The tax rises to lower on cheap cigarettes and harshest on luxury brands.

The proposed bill, in its final form—meaning, after several revisions—would increase prices of cheap cigarette brands by more than 700 percent. The luxury brands, the heavily taxed ones, would only have a tax increase of 6 percent.

Now, if Congress would pass this proposed changes in the "sin tax," the Aquino (Part II) administration projected an increase in revenue from cigarette sales of P50 billion a year.

That, by the way, is a humdinger figure. Surely, the big jump in the price of cheap cigarettes would definitely cut down sales of local brands. To avoid the high tax rates, some groups would also resort to smuggling, in the process killing the local cottage industry. In any case, by worst case plausible turn of events, the assumption was correct that cigarette tax collections from the locals would go up by P50 billion a year.

Given such a scenario, which economic class do you think would bear the brunt of the increase—the rich or the poor? Hint: the tax increase for cheap cigarettes would be 700 percent.

Let us remember that, in the past several years under the anti-administration of Gloriarroyo, a foreign cigarette company walled female journalists' figures, or SALE, has been lobbying for the changes in the "sin tax."

The proposed bill, by fixing an increase in tax on foreign brands at only 6 percent, would get for BAT from the Aquino (Part II) administration, what BAT could not obtain from the anti-administration of Gloriarroyo.

To think that just a few days ago, Malacañang (even) announced that the administration already awaited the proposed bill as "urgent." Reason: the "sin tax" system must be overhauled because of the existence of a "monopoly" in the tobacco industry.

Mysteriously, the Aquino (Part II) administration did not say—why, if the real aim was to kill the alleged "monopoly" in the tobacco industry, the proposed changes in the tax covered the liquor industry, including the maple of the guys down here in my barangay, which is beer of course.

Mysteriously, the administration forgot to explain the mystery that has been baffling the business community for the past couple of decades. And that is, how come the "sin tax" law has been the target of proposed amendments at the start of every new Congress—always in an election year.

Anyway, Malacañang noted the need for a complete overhaul—again—because farmers supposedly were at the mercy of the "monopoly" in the tobacco industry, blaming the merger of two large cigarette companies, noting that prices of raw tobacco have dropped since the merger.

By the way for the sake of the SS boys at the Palace, "monopoly" was just a cute catchy term. The technical term for a single buyer in a market is actually "monopsony."

While the administration did not name the supposed "monopoly," it would not take rocket scientist to figure out that the Palace was referring to Philip Morris and Fortune Tobacco, which merged in 2010.

It is true that the prices of raw tobacco actually dropped from the all-time peak in 2009. And there could be accuracy of what passed for "analysis" that the boys of BS used to justify their suppositions: hurry to overhaul the sin tax law—that the prices peaked in 2009.

Based on official data, the price of Virginia tobacco peaked at P94 per kilo in 2009, before the merger of Philip Morris and Fortune. It so happened, and perhaps this was hidden to our leader BS, there was a worldwide shortage of raw tobacco in 2009. Worse, the international price of oil also went soared in 2009, pushing up the costs of all farm inputs. These costs were surely reflected in the price of tobacco that year.

Things began to normalize in 2010 as Philip Morris and Fortune merged. Still, the price of Virginia leaf remained at about P60 per kilo in 2010, then it rose to more than P70 per kilo in 2011. These were still higher than prices of most other crops.

Also, the prices were way over the so-called floor set by a provincial-organized cooperative body which was P56 per kilo in 2010 and P62 per kilo in 2011.

Again, a government-organized body (in which farmers are represented) set the minimum price for raw tobacco. In other words, the supposed "monopoly," as claimed by the SS boys, rape the tobacco farmers with low-buying prices?

Let us not even consider that the Philip Morris-Fortune merger did not create a monopsony in the raw-tobacco market. This was pre-empted by law.

Today, there are at least eight buyers of raw tobacco such as Universal Leaf (Philippines) (ULP), the biggest tobacco processing company in the country, contracting some 20,000 farmers for some 19,000 hectares of tobacco plantations.

The others are Trans Metals, Cirtrad, La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette, Japan Tobacco International, Anglo-American and Mighty Corp.

We are talking here about some three million people—the families of tobacco farmers—who are dependent on the tobacco industry for their livelihood.

Let me see if I get this right. To favor a foreign company that has been lobbying for changes in the "sin tax" law under the anti-administration of Gloriarroyo, the Aquino (Part II) administration now must say wrong, if not intentionally distorted, information to justify itself?

No wonder, in business they are now saying that the so-called straight and narrow path has a way of tall and lection booths at the end.

ALI

From page B1

where they plan to put up new malls," said Jose Blair Lacson, head of research at local stock brokerage Campos Lanuza & Co.

In an interview, Lacson said it made sense for ALI to have a direct stake in retailing because this would make it easier to fill up the requirements of their retail-development.

Two of the country's largest conglomerates and shopping mall developers—SM and Ali Summit—both own retailing operations that usually become anchor tenants in their projects. The Ayala group, for its part, has previously sold its stake in Tsai Kuo Corp., an operator of the Burger King franchise in the Philippines but sold out of this business in the early 2000s.

Higher

From page B1

to shift from being export-oriented to boosting consumer-through domestic sources. This is in response to the still anemic demand from the US and Europe.

The rebalancing by China, and a few other countries is a growth opportunity for countries like the Philippines, the World Bank said.

China, in particular, is seen to require more imported goods needed to boost domestic production, and neighboring countries like the Philippines may take advantage of this by selling more intermediate goods to China and other developing countries.

PSEi dips

From page B1

overwhelmed by 106 decliners, while 31 stocks were unchanged.

The index was weighed down by the price declines in SMIC, PLDT, Metrobank, Bonifacio, Ayala Corp., ALI, SM Prime and BDO. Seventy Bank shares likewise dipped.

On the other hand, the PSEi's losses were tempered by the gains of GMCI, First Gen, Aboitiz Power, BDO and SLI. Other than PSEi, 11 issues backed the day's downturn were FPH, GMA Holdings and GMA Network.

Stock market debutante Cebu Corp. shares closed 2.67 percent higher at 97.76 per share, surrounding prices that weighed down its newly listed counterparts nearly trade.

EU leaders were expected to meet on Wednesday to work on a proposal from newly elected French president Francois Hollande for the EU to issue regional bonds to underwrite to by investor states.

From the Ivatans of Batanes to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-Tawi

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INVITATION TO BID (IB)

The Department of Tourism through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites PHILGEPS registered suppliers and contractors to participate in the following:

Name of Contract	Procurement of Items (3 units Generator sets) for [illegible]
Area of Delivery	1ST Region III Baluarte Cruise, Regional Tourism Center, Capas Tarlac, Tarlac 2ND Region III [illegible] Tarlac 3RD Region III [illegible]
Brief Description of the Project	Procurement of the above sets shall include [illegible]
Source of Funds	[illegible]

Prospective bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equipment shall be understood as [illegible]

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from the address and upon payment of the applicable fee [illegible]

It is the policy of the Department of Tourism to strictly enforce the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (RA 6713) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

For more information, please refer to:

1. Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat	[illegible]
2. Pre-bid Conference	[illegible]
3. Submission and Receipt of Bids	[illegible]
4. Opening of Bids and Eligibility Check	[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Central Health Development Center Complex
Tuntungin-Putatan, Muntinlupa City
BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, CENTRAL VISAYAS (DOH-CHD, CV), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to bid for the following:

Name of Project: **ONE JOB ORDER FOR LABOR & MATERIALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF METAL CANOPY AT THE 2 FLOOR OF DOH-CHD CV (PHASE 2)**

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): **PHP 10,512,000.00**

PROJECT	ABC INCL. VAT/ NON-VAT (PHP)	CONTRACT DURATION (Calendar days)	PRICE OF BID DOCUMENTS (PHP)
1. Repainting of Multi-Story Center for Health Dev't. Cebu City, Region VII	800,000.00	30	1,000.00
2. Repainting of Perimeter Fence in Regional Epidemiology Unit Building, Region VII	800,000.00	30	1,000.00
3. Repainting of Regional Lab. Building, Tacloban City, Region VIII	1,000,000.00	120	1,000.00
4. Repainting of Fence, Concrete Pavement and Drainage Improvement, Region VIII	4,000,000.00	120	1,000.00
5. Repainting of DOH-CHD-CV Main Office, Cebu City	700,000.00	30	1,000.00
6. Repainting of PHP Hospital Phase II, Dumaguete City, Cebu City	10,000,000.00	240	10,000.00

Prospective bidders should have completed a satisfactory similar project valued at not less than the ABC. Bidders must have a minimum of 50% of the contract price for the equipment for bidding. The Eligibility Requirements as well as the Technical and Financial Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

All submissions relative to Eligibility Statement and Schedule, the Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the guidelines and pertinent provisions of the Revised R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	**May 24 - June 11, 2013** 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Procurement Section, DOH-CHD, CV, Tuntungin-Biet, Cebu City
2. Pre-Bid Conference	**May 31, 2013 at 9:00 am** at the Conference Room, DOH-CHD, CV, Tuntungin-Biet, Cebu City
3. Opening of Bids	**June 12, 2013 at 9:00 am** at the Conference Room, DOH-CHD, CV, Tuntungin-Biet, Cebu City

Bid Documents will be available only in prepared bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of stated in the aforementioned bids and is valid for DOH-CHD, CV Operation.

The Department of Health - CHD, Central Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any bid or to annul the bidding process, and to accept or reject any one or all bids, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Department of Health - CHD Central Visayas
Attn: Engineer P. Tabasa - Asst. Secretariat Bids and Awards Committee
Tuntungin-Biet, Cebu City
Telefax No.: (032) 417-0955
mgtabasa@yahoo.com / mgtabasa@doh.gov.ph

(SGD) ENGR. ROLANDO T. GERONIMO, C.E.S.O. III
BAC Chairman

(PS) - May 30 & 31, 2013

SOUTH COTABATO I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
City of Koronadal
"Be Our Option in Power Distribution"

INVITATION FOR BID

The **SOUTH COTABATO I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.** (SOCOTECO I) invites Eligible Bidders from Eligible Countries for:

OFFICE WORK FURNITURE AND SUPPLY and LEASE OF FURNITURE AND FIXTURES
(Approved Budget Cost: PH, 500, 000.00)

International Eligible Bidders may obtain further information and submit offer of interest (LOI) and qualifications for Eligibility to bid at the office of **Engr. Michael R. Marcelle**, Procurement Committee Chairman, Secretary I Main Office, Marbel, South Cotabato. Last date is on **May 23 to 30, 2013**.

Delivery period from date of award is 60 calendar days.

Bidding Documents may be purchased on **May 23-June 10 , 2013** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five thousand (P10,000) pesos**.

Sealed bid envelopes containing the **TECHNICAL and FINANCIAL PROPOSALS** shall be submitted to the PBAC at the Socoteco I Cooperative's Headquarters, Marbel, Koronadal City, South Cotabato until and before **June 10, 2013**. At this time and place the technical and financial proposals will be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidders' authorized representatives. Technical and Financial proposals not in accordance with the requirements of Bidders' documents will be considered as ineligible bidders.

Pre-Bid Conference will be on June 1, 2013, 9:00 am at the Socoteco I Cooperative's Boardroom, Marbel, Koronadal City, South Cotabato.

All submitted bids shall be accompanied with a bid security equivalent to 2.5% of the amount of the bid. Bid Security shall only be in the form of a **Manager's Check**. It shall be valid for at least One Hundred Fifty (150) days starting from the bid opening date. Late bids will not be accepted.

The South Cotabato I Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or irregularities found and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the cooperative.

OFFICIAL SIGNED
ENGR. TEDDY M. LLANO
PBAC-SEC and Awards Committee Main Chairman

(PS) - May 30, 2013

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
National Capital Region
INVITATION TO BID

The DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (DepEd-NCR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to bid for the following:

Name of Project	Description	Contract Duration	Amount (ABC)
1	Kinder Metal Cage Tables/ City Cemetery/ City Schools' Division Office/ Malolos, San Jose City, City of San Jose and Nueva Ecija	120 cd	1,251,450.00
2	Kindergarten Arrangement Sets/ City Cemetery/ City Schools' Division Office/ Malolos, San Jose City, City of San Jose and Nueva Ecija	120 cd	4,515,000.00

Prospective bidders should have completed, within 2 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an equipment shall refer to the actual type, origin, and capacity of the equipment and shall be supported with evidence, which may be in the form of duly accomplished brochures, and/or descriptive literature. Bids received in the wrong envelope will be automatically rejected.

Bidders should comply with the requirements of Republic Act 9184 and its IRR, including valid PhilGEPS Registration Certificate (Platinum Membership) and other documents required under the said law.

Bidding documents are available for issuance from May 31, 2013 to June 13, 2013 from the BAC Secretariat, Room 1007, 10th Floor, DepEd-NCR, Misamis St., Bago Bantay, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

Bids must be duly received by the BAC Secretariat at the above address on or before June 13, 2013, 10:00 AM. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stipulated in the Bidding Documents.

Bid opening shall be on June 13, 2013, 10:00 AM at the above address. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

The DepEd-NCR reserves the right to reject any bid, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of R.A. 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(SGD) ROMEO D. PASCUA, Ph.D.
Chairperson, BAC
Regional Director

(PS) - May 30 & 31, 2013

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
CCLS-NCR Building, 927 Quezon Ave.
Metro Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
MEA JOINT VENTURE AND BUSINESS CONSULTANCY CORP. Unit 501 Wilcon 9 Bldg., Timog Ave., Brgy. Sacred Heart, Quezon City	Wenjiang Yan/ Lushi, of China	Marketing Manager
UNIDO PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 604 Cityland Condominium 10, Legaspi St. cor. H.V. Dela Costa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Jinbo Lin/ Chinese	Chief Project Manager
KOKUA DENDRO KETSUEKI PHILS., INC. 11/F Subtle Center, 5th Ave. cor. 42nd Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Vinayak Gopalmegapale Ambegaonkar/ Indian	Site R&D and Seed Trials Manager
EPSON INDIA, INC 20/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Shuiqiang Deng/ Chinese	Korean Technical Support Representative
CENTER FOR PHILIPPINE ARTS AND CULTURAL ENTERTAINMENT ASIA INC. Manila Film Center, CCP Complex, Pasay City	Haiqiang Jiao/ Chinese	Consultant
OCEANAGOLD (PHILIPPINES), INC. 37 Cordia L. Molino Bldg., 113 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Shawn Terence Higgins/ Australian	Area Manager - Division 2
KOREAN AIRLINES CO., INC. 32/F LPL Plaza Bldg., No. 1241 cor. 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Dong Keun Kim/ Korean	Assistant Station Manager
KOREAN AIRLINES CO., INC. 32/F LPL Plaza Bldg., No. 1241 cor. 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Min Young Kim/ Korean	Admin & Sales Internal Service Manager
GLOBAL B2B CONSULTANCY, INC. 32/F RBCorp Tower, 6758 Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. Pollon St., Makati City	Jianbiang Huang/ Chinese	Customer Service (Chinese Speaking)
GLOBAL B2B CONSULTANCY, INC. 32/F RBCorp Tower, 6758 Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. Pollon St., Makati City	Junjie Li/ Chinese	Customer Service (Chinese Speaking)
GLOBAL B2B CONSULTANCY, INC. 32/F RBCorp Tower, 6758 Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. Pollon St., Makati City	Yubin Liu/ Chinese	Customer Service (Chinese Speaking)
PACIFIC SEA-SPO SERVICES, INC. 34/F Hydrogen Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kai-Ming Sheng/ Malaysian	Data Analyst Officer
PACIFIC SEA-SPO SERVICES, INC. 34/F Hydrogen Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sonarbai Bhaleshwarbhai Dey/	Data Analyst Officer
PACIFIC SEA-SPO SERVICES, INC. 34/F Hydrogen Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Zhangpeng Dave Chinese	Data Analyst Officer
PACIFIC SEA-SPO SERVICES, INC. 34/F Hydrogen Tower 1, ROBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yongxin Hao/ Chinese	Data Analyst Officer
SEVERN PHILIPPINES LIMITED INC. Suite 1005, 10/F 88 Corporate Center, Valero St., Sec. Village, Makati City	Friedrich Jan Muntzinger/ British	Senior Sales Manager
COMMERCIAL AGENT MANAGEMENT SEMEEN 3/F 88 Corporate, 85 Alfaj, 8/F Valero Square St., Salcedo Vill.	Salah Ayub/ Israeli	Artist
EAST ASIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION INC. 29/F East Asia RDU, Science Review, Ortigas Ctr., Mandaluyong	Paul King Poh/ American	Lecturer/Academic Director
INTELA PHILIPPINES INCORPORATED 19/F 6, Bldg., 113 V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Venkatesan Damodaran/ Indian	Engineer, Operations

Any interested party may submit comments or position paper within ten (10) days from the date of publication of this Notice. Thereafter, let the case be submitted for decision.

ATTY. ALBAN M. MACAPINLAC, CESO III
Regional Director

(PS) - May 30, 2013

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region VII - Central Visayas
5/F Government Center, Maribago, City of Lapu-Lapu (Formerly Opon)
Website: www.depedcvis.com; e-mail: depedcvis@deped.gov.ph; Tel. (032) 231-6261 to 64; Fax (032) 231-6262

May 21, 2013

INVITATION TO BID

To: ALL INTERESTED CONTRACTORS

The Department of Education Regional Office VII, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Registered Contractors to bid for the following project:

Name of Project:	**Construction of Multipurpose Building with Toilet and Furniture**
Location of Project:	**ST. BEE NAN**
Bid Description:	**Construction of Multipurpose Building with Toilet and Furniture**

Center	No. of Regular Classrooms	Location	Contract Duration	Amount (ABC)
1	4 schools	Tubigon and Getafe City	120 cd	4,515,000.00
2	1 schools	Dumaguete and Mabinay City	120 cd	4,515,000.00
3	4 schools	Bohol	120 cd	4,515,000.00
4	4 schools	Bacolod City and City of San Jose del Monte	120 cd	4,515,000.00
5	4 schools	Tagbilaran	120 cd	4,515,000.00
6	4 schools	Negros Occidental (City of Silay)	120 cd	4,515,000.00
7A	4 schools	Bacolod City	120 cd	4,515,000.00
7B	4 schools	Cabadbaran City and Butuan	120 cd	4,515,000.00
8	4 schools	Cagayan City and Iligan City	120 cd	4,515,000.00
9	4 schools	Cagayan City and Iligan City (City of Malaybalay)	120 cd	4,515,000.00
10	4 schools	Tagum City and Davao City	120 cd	4,515,000.00
11	4 schools	Cotabato City and Koronadal City	120 cd	4,515,000.00
12	4 schools	Zamboanga City and Isabela City	120 cd	4,515,000.00

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar project valued at not less than the ABC. Bidders must have a minimum of 50% of the contract price for the equipment for bidding. The Eligibility Requirements as well as the Technical and Financial Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

All submissions relative to the Eligibility Statement and Schedule, the Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the guidelines and pertinent provisions of the Revised R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

No.	BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE	VENUE
1	Advertisement / Publication	May 23 - 30, 2013	Philippine Newspaper
2	Issuance of Bid Documents	May 24 - June 10, 2013	Office of the BAC Secretariat, DepEd-NCR
3	Pre-bid Conference	June 4, 2013 1:00 PM	DepED NCR Bid Conference Room
4	Receipt and Opening of Bids	June 13, 2013 10:00 AM	DepED NCR Bid Conference Room
5	Bid Evaluation / Post Qualification	June 20 - 27, 2013	
6	Submission of Notice of Award / Contract Preparation	June 28 - July 4, 2013	
7	Issuance of Notice to Proceed	July 5, 2013	

Bid documents will be available only in prepared bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of stated in the aforementioned bids and is valid for DepED Region VII Operation.

The DepEd-NCR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to accept or reject any one or all bids, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(SGD) ROMEO D. PASCUA, Ph.D.
Chairperson, BAC
Regional Director

(PS) - May 30 & 31, 2013

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region VII - Central Visayas
5/F Government Center, Maribago, City of Lapu-Lapu (Formerly Opon)
Website: www.depedcvis.com; e-mail: depedcvis@deped.gov.ph; Tel. (032) 231-6261 to 64; Fax (032) 231-6262

May 21, 2013

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education Regional Office VII, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders who are qualified to do Philippine Construction Accreditation Board (PCAB) to bid for the following project: Construction of Multipurpose Building with Toilet and Furniture (Six (6) Class Receiving Provinces)

Name of Project:	**Construction of Multipurpose Building with Toilet and Furniture**
Source of Fund:	**FY 2013 SBM**

Center	No. of Regular Classrooms	Location	Contract Duration	Amount (ABC)
1	4 schools	Tubigon and Getafe City	120 cd	4,515,000.00
2	1 schools	Dumaguete and Mabinay City	120 cd	4,515,000.00
3	4 schools	Bohol	120 cd	4,515,000.00
4	4 schools	Bacolod City and City of San Jose del Monte	120 cd	4,515,000.00
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11	4 schools	Cotabato City and Koronadal City	120 cd	4,515,000.00
12	4 schools	Zamboanga City and Isabela City	120 cd	4,515,000.00

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar project valued at not less than the ABC. Bidders must have a minimum of 50% of the contract price for the equipment for bidding. The Eligibility Requirements as well as the Technical and Financial Proposals shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

All submissions relative to the Eligibility Statement and Schedule, the Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the guidelines and pertinent provisions of the Revised R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

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5	Bid Evaluation / Post Qualification	June 20 - 27, 2013	
6	Submission of Notice of Award / Contract Preparation	June 28 - July 4, 2013	
7	Issuance of Notice to Proceed	July 5, 2013	

The BAC will base its prospective bidders' Safety Occupational & Hygiene Performance and Safety Practices Report (SOHPSPR) Compliance Level Ratings, as per the Tripartite Project Monitoring Committee (TPMC) Report of Level of Compliance, in the implementation period of the Contract to be awarded.

The DepED Regional Office VII reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of R.A. 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(SGD) ROMEO D. PASCUA, Ph.D.
Chairperson, BAC
Regional Director

(PS) - May 30 & 31, 2013

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BUSINESS

Neda inks aid agreement with French agency

ODA worth 150 million to 200 million euros for 2012-2013

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINES, through the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding with the French government's finance arm for an official development assistance program involving 150 million to 200 million euros.

Neda Deputy Director-General Rolando G. Inquiglot said the Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) program for the Philippines, which covered fiscal year 2012-2013, was aligned with the priorities of the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016 for "inclusive" and "green" growth.

Inquiglot said the AFD assistance would be in the form of untied loans, which were not tied-down for implementing agencies of donor countries, and would follow host procurement rules. He said he was hoping the would be the base launch for future bilateral agreements.

"For stand-alone loans, we will follow local procurement rules and for co-financed loans, we are willing to work with whatever is the development partner," said AFD country director Luc Le Calvedec.

Le Calvedec said the French agency was keen on having a medium-term (2 to 5 years) program for the Philippines that would support among others, agriculture efficiency to help curb poverty in an environmentally sustainable way.

"This is an important milestone not only for AFD and the government of the Philippines but also for a broader term, between France and the Philippines," Le Calvedec said.

AFD is offering long-term loans (15 years with a 5-year grace period) with possible technical assistance grants for certain components of investment projects.

Transport, water supply, institutions, and forestry are among the sectors covered by the current country program.

As a general rule, Le Calvedec said, the program must support government priorities, particularly "green" and "inclusive" sustainable development. AFD's "motto," he said, was to foster a "low-carbon growth path" for the countries it was supporting.

In 2011, AFD worked with the Aquino administration to identify projects that the French aid agency could finance, he said.

In December 2009, the AFD board approved its first loan to the government of the Philippines (150 million euros), which was used to co-finance with Asian Development Bank the implementation of the second phase of a microenterprise for local government units.

The program aims to support the government in its efforts to strengthen LGU capacities to plan and budget for the general welfare of their constituent communities in a transparent and accountable way. It contributes to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of basic public services, including environmental services, to residents by increasing local resources and financing options for LGUs.

Globe to start offering new iPad

GLOBE Telecom yesterday announced it would start offering the new iPad in the Philippines on May 24.

The iPad will be made available via a range of Tattoo data plans that will allow customers to connect to Globe's nationwide network at speeds of up to 42Mbps.

The third generation iPad is a computer defining mobile device that features a new Retina display, Apple's new A5X chip with quad-core graphics and a 5 megapixel iSight camera with advanced optics and 1080p HD video. It also will deliver the same all-day 10-hour battery life while remaining thin and light.

"We're very excited to launch the incredible new iPad in the Philippines," said Peter Nelson, senior advisor for consumer business at Globe Telecom. "Customers using our network on their new iPad will experience great value Tattoo data plans and blazing speed for unbelievable user experience."

Customers can buy the new iPad at all Globe retail stores nationwide beginning Friday.

PH seen benefiting the most from liberalization efforts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES is seen benefiting the most, especially in terms of improvements in business environment, from liberalization efforts toward building the Asean Economic Community, according to UBS Investment Research.

In a 26-page study on Southeast Asia, the financial services provider said this was so considering that the country had seen the least improvement in the ease of doing business in the past seven years.

"Within the Asean Liberalization of Intra-Asean Flows (aseanflows) improvements have been recorded across the board," UBS said. "Indonesia, Malaysia and Laos have recorded the greatest and broadest improvement in their respective business environments, while the Philippines and Singapore have seen the least."

Because of that, UBS said the Philippines appeared to have the least momentum toward the liberalization of its economy. The already liberal Singapore comes second.

In its assessment, UBS described the ease of doing business in the Philippines as "moderate but improving."

As for cross-border trade and financial services, UBS said there were not as open as in Singapore but added that there was ongoing liberalization particularly in the 10-nation Asean pointed ahead to establishing a single economy.

UBS, however, warned about "the significant influence" that the elections in 2013 might have the momentum for reforms.

"Based on political conditions and past precautions, we believe the liberalization dynamics are strengthening in (the) Philippines, at least for this year," UBS said.

While liberalization in the Philippines for basic strengthening, relevant laws must be passed this year before all political attention turns to the Congressional elections, it said.

In particular, UBS mentioned the need for a fiscal incentives law that would simplify rules on taxes and incentives, and another on ensuring free market investing in this sector exists.

Also, the company noted the need for the liberalization of government procurement so interest is not relevant to help the PPP (public-private partnership) process.

"While we cannot point to sufficiently improving liberalization conditions in any economy, the Philippines does stand out," UBS said.

CALATA Corp.'s Joseph Calata and PSE director Victor Fuhrmann lead the ceremonial ringing of the bell marking the start of yesterday's trading. PHOTO BY DOY

Calata debuts on PSE, bares expansion plans

ASHER ESPERAS Tan Calata Corp. has local plans to set up a network of retail stores and expand its operations this year.

Calata's shares rose on Wednesday—its first day as a public firm—to close at P7.70 per share from its initial offer price of P7.50.

Officials said the expansion of the company's operations this year would ensure that stockholders continued to receive healthy returns for their investments.

"We're a growing company. Once we grow our operations, our stock price will follow," said 31-year-old Joseph Calata, the company's president and CEO.

Net proceeds of the company's share sale on Wednesday, with 15 percent off the company's capital stock going to public hands, reached about P162 million. The 36.1 million newly-issued shares were sold at P7.50 each.

Company underwriter Philippine Investment Management Inc. said the offer was 1.7 times oversubscribed. It was oversubscribed despite the last-day surprise hike in the minimum, 5-day capital exposure limit to P500,000, Philippine Investment Management Inc. said.

Calata is the third company to hold an initial public offering (IPO) this year, after 63 Capital Holdings and EastWest Bank.

At the celebration of the company's listing ceremony, Calata said the company would spend P139 million from the proceeds of the IPO to establish a network of 100 retail stores in Luzon.

The balance of the IPO proceeds would be spent to augment the company's current inventory and for general corporate purposes.

The retail stores would sell metal tools, fertilizers, chemicals and other basic inputs to small farmers. The retail business would complement the company's current wholesale agriculture supply operations. Paolo Silverio/Ellie

TV5 starts airing in US through tieup with DISH

TV5 has teamed up with DISH to bring its news and entertainment programs to Filipinos residing in the United States. The service started on May 23.

DISH is the leader in international programming in the US and the nation's first pay TV to provide so many TV5's international channels.

Through Filipinas Global Network (FGN), the international affiliate of TV5, US-based Filipinos will have access to Kapatid TV5 and Aksyon TV international channels.

"TV5 International got another boost with this partnership with DISH. It signifies our ever-strong commitment to give Pinoys nationwide the best entertainment and public service programming, wherever they may be in the world," said Gina Bautista, president and CEO of FGN.

"DISH is pleased to be the first pay-TV provider to offer TV5 content in the US," said Charlie Ergen, vice president of International Programming of DISH. "Filipino communities will finally have access to the news, entertainment and sports programming offered by Kapatid TV5 and Aksyon TV International."

Kapatid TV5 is a 24-hour general entertainment Tagalog language channel that features the best of Philippine programming for the pulse of the Filipino people. It is the home of the biggest names in Philippine entertainment.

Aksyon TV International is a 24-hour Tagalog language channel dedicated to keeping Filipinos across the globe updated on the latest national and international news, current events and issues.

Filipinas Global Network acts as the sole and exclusive distributor and licensor of the programs, shows, films and channels of TV5. It distributes this media content via syndication and its international license channels, Kapatid TV5 and Aksyon TV International.

RLC expanding in Mindanao

CDO NEWSFLED Robinsons Land Corp. is expanding its Mindanao with the construction of a new shopping mall in Butuan with a 140-room budget hotel on the top floors.

RLC said on Wednesday it had awarded the construction of Robinsons Place Butuan with Go Hotel for completion by the third quarter of 2013. The five-storey building will have a total gross floor area of 68,300 square meters.

Situated along J.C. Aquino Avenue in Brgy. Baan Km. Robinsons Place Butuan is RLC fourth mall in the region. It is envisioned to be the premiere shopping mall in Agusan del Norte. It will feature popular shops and restaurants, a wide array of service establishments, a food court featuring local dishes of the region, and four digital cinemas including the first 3D cinema in the province.

It will be anchored by Robinsons Supermarket, Robinsons Department Store, Handyman, Robinsons Appliances and a Robinsons Bank branch.

Atop the upcoming shopping mall building will be budget hotel Go Hotel, RLC's value hotel chain that has now five branches across the country. Ryan C. Dumlao

Insular Life income up 12%

FILIPINO life insurer Insular Life reported an all-time high consolidated net income of P19.9 billion in 2011, underlining its position as one of the most profitable life insurance companies in the country.

The 12 percent growth in net income was the result of higher premiums and sustained strong investment income in 2011.

It also posted P13.5 billion in consolidated revenue, of which net insurance revenue contributed more than half and the rest came from investment income, equity in net earnings of associates and mutual income from mutual and property holdings.

At the recent annual members' meeting of the company, Insular chair and chief executive officer Vicente R. Ballos stressed the company's consistent track record in the last five years.

"The fact that Insular Life has been able to consistently grow its business line above the P2 billion mark in the past five years amid an unpredictable and economically turbulent environment is a solid proof of our determination and focus on delivering on our strategic priorities."

Ballos said that among the company's priorities were developing customer-centric products and empowering customer service initiatives. Five new products were launched in the market in 2011 — a limited-pay health insurance plan, a single-pay variable unit-linked insurance plan, a limited-pay endowment plan and a limited-pay participated plan.

He also attributed the company's growth to its increasing number of sales force which grew by 5 percent to more than 3,200 licensed agents. The agency distribution channel and other distribution partnerships generated new business premiums amounting to P7.6 billion, up by 12 percent, while total premiums reached P7.6 billion, up by 4 percent.

Consolidated assets grew 12 percent to P90.5 billion from P79.6 billion in 2010. Shareholders' equity increased by 20 percent to P20.7 billion from P17.2 billion.

Total policyholder benefits and operating expenses hit P12.5 billion.

SMC group sees sales hitting $20B

By Paolo G. Montecillo

GOVERNANCE LED conglomerate San Miguel Corp. expects to book $20 billion (P860 billion) in gross sales revenue across all its businesses this year as a result of its aggressive diversification.

The projected revenue is 14.3 percent higher than the $17.5 billion posted last year. This also represents a seven-fold increase from only $3 billion in annual sales the company had before it started diversifying three years ago.

"We will have $20 billion in gross sales revenues this year. Internally, we have set another target that is even more ambitious. But, I (SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang) said in a briefing on Wednesday.

SMC earlier projected to hit the $20-billion mark by 2015, but Ang said the companies that the conglomerate had acquired presented more opportunities.

After decades of growing into one of Asia's largest food and beverage conglomerates, SMC started investing in assets in the power, telecommunications, infrastructure and banking sectors.

SMC's most recent acquisition was flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL).

The other "crown jewels" in SMC's portfolio include Petron Corp., the country's largest oil refiner, and majority stakes in three mines: refractory south of Ebrio's Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. and Globe Telecom Inc.), he said.

Liberty posted a P1.6 billion net loss last year.

Gilbuena said the company was expected to start realizing profits by 2014.

SMC's acquisitions were funded mainly through the sale of substantial stakes in existing food and beverage subsidiaries such as San Miguel Brewery.

Certain quarters viewed SMC's diversification into risky businesses negatively. Global debt watcher Standard & Poor's downgraded its rating to junk, citing that the operating cost of SMC's resources and management from would deteriorate the company's ability to pay obligations.

Ang, however, said the group's performance in the period the all the company's companies were strong.

"When we started diversifying, almost everybody said we would fail. But today, everyone is trying to imitate us," he said.

He said SMC would continue venturing into new businesses "because as the group evolved," he said, when asked whether SMC was already satisfied with what it had on its plates. "But there are other opportunities outside that we want to pursue," he said.

Power Situation Outlook
for Thursday, 24 May 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	8,503	1,800	1,163
Available Peak (MW)	7,881	1,409	1,053
Reserve Situation (MW)	562	391	109

LIFESTYLE Food

Lifestyle's no-fear-of-calories dining guide to Bonifacio High Street Central

From soft-shell crab sushi, chicken parmesan pizza to 'adobo' with 'kesong puti,' deep-fried lamb spareribs, choco 'yema' cupcakes

By Pam Pastor and Tessa Yang, Contributors

A MODERN Spanish restaurant that serves killer carpaccio. Filipino food inspired by "Noli Me Tangere." Japanese food with special flair. Refreshing fruit smoothies. New York-style pizza. A café that offers healthy treats and mouth-watering desserts. A fusion resto that aims to please your senses.

There are just seven of the palate pleasing offerings at Bonifacio High Street Central, the continuation of retail powerhouse

Vote a Pinoy establishment into the Miele Guide's 50 best Asian restaurants

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THE TOP 50 restaurants in the world may have been Euro-centric, but there were a few notable Asian restaurants that made it on the list. This year, six restaurants made the top 50.

Singapore's Iggy's was ranked no. 26 in the world. Two restaurants from Tokyo, Narisawa and Nihonryori RyuGin, made no. 27 and no. 28 respectively. Tetsuya Wakuda's Waku Ghin in Singapore also received recognition at no. 29. Hong Kong's Amber is no. 44. And a new entry from Thailand, Nahm, made no. 50.

The following did not make the top 50, but did make the top 100 on Hong Kong list. The Asian representation with chef Alvin Leung's Bo Innovation going up 11 notches from last year's voting, to be ranked now at no. 51. The four Seasons Caprice went up 22 notches to 61 no. 94.

Also, a new entrant from Hong Kong, Lung Hing Hwa, made no. 93. Singapore's very elegant Les Amis was ranked no. 55, while Restaurant Andre, whose namesake chef is one of the most innovative in our region, went up 12 notches to no. 66.

Mumbai's Bukhara a Galora made a comeback at no. 82. A new entry from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Bund, made no. 95.

This was definitely an improvement from 2008 (the year I joined the jury). Back then, there was no Asian on the top 50. India's Indiana ranked highest at no. 55. Singapore's Iggy's—now at no. 26—back then was at just no. 77. Hong Kong's Pierre Gagnaire was no. 88 and Zuma was no. 99. Mumbai's Bukhara a Galora was no. 98.

Disappointment

Noodle power couple Ann Koh and Bobjan Tan, the originals in the World's 50 Best awards, were not quiet about their disappointment with their lack of Asian restaurants in the rankings. They feel cheap even.

They become staunch advocates of increasing Asian representation and recognition in the world gourmet scene, and The Miele Guide was conceived. The Guide lists Asia's "best" 500 restaurants and ranks the Top 20 in the region.

That started everyone talking not just about Iggy's but also about Mosuke in Bali, Caprice in HK, and, even Antonio's—the restaurant in the Philippines that kept mak-

MENU

Margarette Sarkozis

It's about time one of ours landed on the list alongside Antonio's, restos in Singapore, HK

ing the Top 20.

With enough noise made from the Miele Guide...plus the surge of celebrity chefs in the region—most Asian restaurants are slowly being recognized by the rest of the world. Proof of this—next year, Restaurant Shigure is launching its Asia's 50 first restaurants list.

Exciting food

But first, let's get the world to recognize more Filipino restaurants. The Miele Guide 2012/2013 is accepting votes at www.mieleguide.com. Be bold for once! Invite restaurateurs...in the Philippines or in other parts of Asia—and vote.

You don't need to vote for a fancy restaurant. A couple of years back, the queen votes to Hong Kong Tong Lee made top 10. There there's the come-as-you are Dedoy de Joel Robuchon, its long are the place has simplistic, excellent, exciting food, even without a dress code, that favorite resto may deserve to be recognized.

I'm sure Kanpai Kushiyaki is getting lonely as the only one in the top 10, so please get another Pinoy resto or two (or more!) to join him. Shortlisted restaurants are at mieleguide.com/restaurants. Voting closes on May 31 (tomorrow!) so log on and vote for your fave resto's ASAP. Let's tell the world why restaurants are more fun in the Philippines!

Visit www.margaretesarkozis.com, www.twitter.com/margaretesarkozis, www.facebook.com/margaretesarkozis

Whirlpool holds Mother's Day event June 2

WHIRLPOOL HOLDS a special Mother's Day event, "Because You Are a Whirlpool Mom," June 2, 3 p.m. It will be held at Metrowalk Grounds, beside the E Mercuri Food Bazaar.

"This is our way of celebrating Mother's Day by acknowledging loyal Whirlpool moms who have made Whirlpool products a part of their homes. In recognition of this, we're holding this event where all Whirlpool moms will receive free gifts, learn to cooking demos, learn belly dancing exercises, plus they will also get the chance to take home a brand new Whirlpool refrigerator, microwave oven or washing machine.

"It will definitely be a day filled with fun, fitness, and freebies," said Joy Castro Cruz, marketing manager of Whirlpool in the Philippines.

The event is open only to women, aged 24 and above, who have purchased any Whirlpool product. Entrance is free, but pre-registration is required.

Send full name and contact details to marketing@manesh.com.ph. An e-mail will be sent confirming the status of the registration. Only the first 200 registrants can join. Family and friends are accompany the participant, but only the participant is entitled to giveaways and entry to the raffle.

E-mail marketing@manesh.com.ph or call 7268505.

Casino Espanol celebrates Seville Fair in Manila

Casino Espanol, one of the most historic and exclusive clubs in the Philippines, brings the fun and festivity of the world-famous Seville Fair to the Philippines with "Feria de Sevilla en Manila", a grand summer festival open to the public this May 26, 2012.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., there will be dance classes for people who want to learn Spain's most well-known dances, including the flamenco and paso doble. From 6 p.m. onwards, a gala dinner will feature an all-you-can-eat Spanish buffet, a live Latin band and a Spanish dance show.

Guests and club members may opt to buy tickets just for the dance classes or the gala dinner, or they can choose to go to both. Tickets for all-day dance classes cost P350, while the entrance fee to the gala dinner costs P950.

"The Seville Fair is one of the most colorful and vibrant festivals of Spain," said Jose Luis Sua Jose, General Manager of Casino Espanol. "As a proponent of Spain's rich culture, Casino Espanol is proud to be able to bring a part of that celebration here for our members and the Filipino public to enjoy and experience."

Casino Espanol de Manila is located at 855 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila. Interested individuals may contact them by telephone at (632) 525-7604 or through their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/casinoespanol.

Prawns with 'aligue' sauce

IT ISN'T every day that Manilans get to taste the cuisine of Iloilo, a province in Western Visayas known for its fresh seafood, hearty soups and delectable pastries. That's why it's really a treat whenever one of the lunch-and-dinner buffets in Manila's Grand's Fusion Restaurant, that's just what diners can expect starting next month until June 3, with the hotel's "Iloilo and Other Bests" gastronomic festival.

The sumptuous spread will include classic Ilonggo dishes such as chicken inasal and its favorite recipes that showcase the best of the grill will be there, the angel wings dance that almost became extinct a few years ago (one and more on the list found), thanks to most judicious harvesting.

With chefs shaped like angel wings (Ano in name), diners here like an upgraded version of clams, and when in season they're fit and succulent, also on the grill will be oysters from Miagao and grilled mangrove jack, a black, saltier cheap but tasty fish locally known as tea-tea.

Strangely, despite their city's tropical climate, the people of Iloilo enjoy having hot soup with their meals. Chef Pauline Bautista, a graduate of culinary institute of America who'll be working with Mandarin Oriental on this festival, executive sous chef Jun Jun Bautista, is salted and hard among the soup dishes often found at the Ilonggo table.

There's also the lowly named KBL, a concoction of kiam (black beans), bobar (pork) and langka (jackfruit) simmered in a broth stirred slowly subtly by kalasan. Chef Pauline says and that is her favorite comfort food, the dish she first seeks whenever she returns to Iloilo after a trip, and she'll be preparing it for the Fusion Bautista.

With sugar being a major crop, Iloilo is known for its sweet delicacies. Always a big crowd pleaser is the yema cake, with its topping of egg yolk, custard and swirls of fluffy whipped icing.

Another dish chef Pauline will be preparing is the decadently rich halaan with aligue sauce, prawns in a sauce extracted from the fat of tiny crabs. Here, she shares her recipe for luscious modern Iloilo.

Ilonggo food will be part of Fusion's lunch and dinner buffet for May 25-June 3. Price of buffet is P1,019++ per person Monday-Thursday, and P1,200++ Friday-Saturday, inclusive of the dinner buffet. Call 7008888 for reservations.

Prawns with Aligue Sauce

2 (1.6-inch) pcs
For the aligue sauce:
¼ cup vegetable oil
¼ cup chopped garlic
¼ cup onion puree
2 cups tomato juice (canned)
½ cup fish sauce
2 tbsp cooking oil
½ cup prepared aligue sauce
½ cup chopped spring onions

Make the aligue sauce: Heat vegetable oil in a saucepan or large skillet and sauté garlic for 30 seconds to one minute. Stir in onion and deglaze pan by stirring soy browned bits in the pan (use a wooden spoon) and incorporating them into the liquid. Pour in the tube of aligue, ¼ tsp of spices and remaining ingredients. Bring to a simmer over medium heat, stirring often. Let mixture simmer for three to five minutes. Set aside.

Cook the prawns: Peel the prawns and remove the heads. Snap tails on. Slit open the backs of the prawns and remove the black veins running through the backs. Moisture the prawns in salt, pepper and the juice of the three calamansi for 15 minutes.

Heat the oil in a wok or large skillet. Shake excess oil over the bowl. Fry the prawns for about three minutes or just until they turn red-orange in color. Do not overfry.

Transfer the prawns to a serving platter and pat with paper towels or absorbent paper to remove the excess oil. Pour in ½ cup of the prepared aligue sauce. Sprinkle spring onions on top and serve immediately. (Or you may pour in the aligue sauce first on the serving platter and arrange the prawns on top. Then sprinkle with green onions.)

For more tips, recipes and stories, visit the author's blog www.marianneaddobofusion.com and Facebook fan page www.facebook.com/marianneaddobofusion. Follow on Twitter @MarianneAddobo.

LUMBIA (Prawns) with Aligue

Cook's notes

- Use good quality bottled tube or tinnaples, such as the ones sold in Cubcon Restaurant, Milky Way Restaurant and chef Claude Tayag's brand, available in some supermarkets.
- To make sauce sit: Dissolve one tablespoon cornstarch powder in ¼ cup cups oil. However, you may omit the sauce sit if the bottled tube or tinnaples sauce you're using already has sauce or is a bright orange color.
- The recipe for aligue sauce makes around two cups. Since only one half cup is required for the prawns, you can store the remaining aligue sauce in a tightly covered container in the refrigerator or freezer. Bring to room temperature before using.
- Chef Pauline says you can use the remaining aligue sauce for rice or even pasta. To use as pasta sauce, just add cream or ganc to the aligue sauce then stir into the pasta. "This can be another amazing dish," says Chef Pauline.

European-inspired night market opens this weekend

A EUROPEAN INSPIRED marketplace opens this weekend at Power Plaza in McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio.

On May 25, 6 p.m., the Venetian Night Market will offer the flavors of Spain, Italy and the Mediterranean. There various booths. They will sell premium wines, cheese, imported beer, deli and organic products.

Grill and mixtures meat will be available at The Cheese Stick Shop, Happy Maria, Gracia Shawarma and Skyes Barbecue, and dozen meals from at Carlo's Kitchen. Authentic Italian fare station from Cucina Bambinos, Francesca and Antonella's Pizzeria and, as well as from Wrapa Pizza sandwiches such as Old Vine, Empire Deli and Sumo Bar.

Food will be prepared by a chef on the spot, plus wine mixed by a wine-pairing color chart prepared with the help of sommeliers from Wine Depot. Visitors can drop by Wine Depot to pair up their meal with a glass of premium wine, or go outdoor with a beer.

Or if two of imported beer from Beaver On Line. Healthy fruit juices from The Juice Bar and milk tea from Tea Party are also available, with herbal cocktail drinks from Herbilla.

A new fully air-conditioned tent will house the Venetian Night Market at Venice Piazza, McKinley Hill. It will welcome foodies once a month starting May 25-26 and June 1-2, 6 p.m.-2 a.m.

For details, call Megaworld Lifestyle Malls Concierge at 7090888, 7090888, 0917 8988111, visit www.megaworldlifestyle.com

Fly in an SIA A380 Suite and get a free suite at Raffles Hotel

DISCOVER the ultimate in comfort and style by popular demand, Singapore Airlines (SIA) relaunches its A380 Suites promotion.

Passengers who fly roundtrip in one of SIA's A380 Suite service before September 30, 2012 will be pampered with a free overnight suite accommodation at the legendary Raffles Hotel in Singapore. Guests get the stay one-night stay. Passengers will enjoy luxurious amenities including limousine service, gourmet breakfast at the famous 1887 Room, complimentary Raffles Hotel Stone Set chalk and a 40 percent discount on a Jet Lag treatment at the Raffles Spa.

SIA's A380 were first to incorporate dedicated suites in selected cabins, the supersonic aircraft in 2007. The cabin's first of 12 A380s in service that to Frankfurt, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, New York (JFK), Paris, Sydney, Tokyo and Zurich.

There is a cabin class exclusive to SIA's A380 aircrafts. Each SIA A380 suite is a private cabin to itself and features large sliding doors for flight attendants and service, including full-sized beds and designer furnishings.

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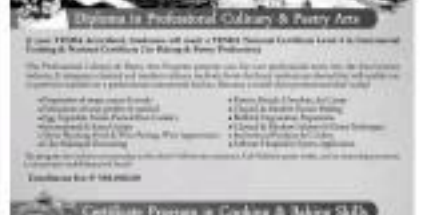

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Lifestyle's no-fear-of-calories dining guide . . .

From page C1

Boniface High Street in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Lifestyle took a gastronomic tour of this development.

Our favorites:

Bono Cucina Vivanista

The brainchild of the people behind Fundamo, Dapplebay, Opus, Habitus, The Distiller's and Draft Gastro Pub, Bono is a Spanish restaurant with a modern edge. Inspired by chef Carlo Miguel's childhood memories of Spain, Bono's menu includes a variety of tapas, main dishes, paella and other Spanish favorites. It's a great place for enjoying tapas, drinking wine and bonding back a few nights in.

Our favorites in the Bono Delta (pork, chorizo, bacon, prawns, squid, mussels and clams): It's rich and flavorful and the rice is moist and cooked to perfection. We also loved the shrimp and Chorizo Croquetas (shrimp and chorizo rissoles croquettes flavored with fresh herbs and served with tomato sauce).

And their killer sangrias are enough reason for us to go back.

Bestsellers: The paellas, the croquettas, the roast meats (Lamb Serrano, Chorizo Iberico, Lomo Iberico).

Other must-orders: The Fresco Montanez (grilled shrimp, pork, beef, chicken or lamb kofta) and the Manchego, tomato and Arugula Flat Bread.

More reasons to go: Their happy hour lets you drink all the sangria you want for P800. And there's Spanish label wines not at just P550 a bottle.

The fours: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. from Mondays to Saturdays; 11 a.m. to midnight on Sundays.

The digits: 8231550, 0908-5049695

Elias by Crisostomo

Inspired by José Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere," Elias takes its cue from the Spanish colonial period. But the restaurant serves not just Spanish-inspired Filipino classics, but also sensational dishes and dazzling Fusion experiments by chef Florabel Co Sarmiento.

Our favorites: Crispy Beef Tapa, Pinoy Paella and Guinataang Halo-Halo

Bestsellers: Crispy Pata, Tinolang Manangbaka (cooking mutton with papaya and Jobe's tears), Bara-Bara ng Bayo (goat sa cocolate) and Sweetened Lechong Garden (served with crispy lechon and Asong pork), Tortilla Espiel Al Ilio

Other must-orders: Tinapa sa Tiburcia (tinapa and salted egg wrapped in crispy banana leaves), Kare-Kare at Tadyang (Three bite-sized mutton pops give a Filipino twist to a European favorite, the Inihaw Lengua (tongue-style preserved steak served with turnip and served with crab-fat sauce), Sinuteng Ipakin with Adobong Dalun, mangoes and eggs)

More reasons to go: Movie dates...from cocktails and dinner to brownie-to-go and Home Delivery.

The hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. everyday.

The digits: 8231595

Geisha by Red Kimono

Diviner Michael Dingzon believes in creating an impact. "We want to raise the bar with Geisha. Our vision was to set the standard for contemporary Japanese cuisine in the country."

That is why he brought in Japanese interior designer Chieko Hanyazaki to help design Geisha's look. That's why their walls is armed with LED lights. That's why the staff wears designer uniforms.

But Hirschfeld also knows that the biggest impact should come from their kitchen, which serves Japanese culinary delights from the menu created by chef Toru Hatsuzawa Restaurateur.

Our favorites: The Spider Roll (crunchy soft shell crab, cucumber, shavings) is excellent—we've heard sunshine dreaming about it. The Rock Shrimp Tempura baked in a mint-tip—we love the creamy sesame dressing.

Best sellers: Seafood (served with UFO lights—a real touch), the Skewered Pork T2 (cooked for 72 hours), the UK Angus Beef Teppanyaki and Boneless Ayam.

Other must-orders: The Japanese All Fingers. "It's the highest grade of Japanese Wagyu in the country," said Michael. And the Miso Glazed Chicken with Edamame Risotto, Gindra Carpaccio and Salmon and King Parmesan Roll.

More reasons to go: The drinks. Geisha's extensive drink list includes sake, nine cocktails, wines, beers and premium tea.

The hours: 12 a.m. to mid-night

The digits: 6211130

Jumbo Juice

With the pounding beat of current, Jumbo Juice's fruit and dairy smoothies are exactly the refreshing treat that you need. Apart from being chock-full of antioxidants and vitamins, the smoothies are filling enough to be an all-you-can pick the up of a "liquid lunch."

Our favorites: The Acai Superberry's main ingredient is the acai berry, known for its high antioxidants content—perfect for post-hangover remedy or to help prevent one, also.

Bestsellers: The Caribbean Passion—a concoction of passionfruit mango juice, orange chenbot and pandan brings you back to the beach. For the busy people who forget to take their vitamins, smoothies can be mixed with different powder boosts for healthier sip.

Other must-orders: Berry-nana Berry (nuts) for brain boosting, raspberry and cranberry for the regular staff, and the oats are slow-cooked in soymilk—an ideal breakfast for the big ones sometimes.

More reasons to go: The interiors are cozy and plush, with convenient electrical outlets for those who need to work.

The hours: 8 a.m. -11 p.m.

The digits: 7560000

Mollers

When you're craving Sea York-style pizza, this is the place.

Mollers, owned by the group behind 3 Pastorcillo, Bocogib and Kanto, was named after the famous food district in lower Manhattan. Chef Cesh, who was born, raised and trained as a chef in New York, serves pizza slices that will transport your taste buds to the Big Apple.

Our favorites: Yes, can't go wrong with pepperoni, it's a classic. But we also love the Chicken Parmesan pizza. Chef Cesh wasn't kidding when he said they don't scrimp on ingredients—their pizzas are loaded with toppings. And we don't just love Mollers pizzas because of the generous toppings, their crust is also perfect. It's not too thin and it's the perfect combination of crispy and chewy.

Bestsellers: The pizzas, of course. Try the Spinach and Artichoke, the Wild Mushroom, Walnut Raisin and the Wild Mushroom Philini Blue Cheese. Try them all and don't forget—eat with your hands.

Other must-orders: Fried Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich, Stovetop Mac and Cheese...and the burgers.

More reasons to go: The beer. Mollers serves imported brews on draught.

The hours: 11 a.m. to mid-night or Sundays and Mondays; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. on Tuesdays to Thursdays; and 11 a.m.-3 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

The digits: 0917-5322613

Slice

Slice started as a dessert cart, but it's definitely more than that now; it's more than a dessert place. Home/tradition lies. Pia Cayetano put up the cafe to satisfy her passion for healthy eating.

But, as her menu shows, she's not against occasional self indulgences either.

Our favorites: Baked Brown Rice (pulled barbecue chicken strips on brown rice covered with cheese) was so good. We're big fans of the Turtle Pie, too. It's a must-try.

Bestsellers: The Citrus Burst and Morning Glory muffins and the Choco Mota cupcakes.

If the Choco Mota cupcake doesn't hit the spot, go for its bigger sibling, the Double Choco Mota cake, with moist chocolate base, cocoa, and chocolate frosting topping. chocolate ganache icing that you will want to rub against your face, it's so good.

Other must-orders: The pastas (Turbot, Tomato at Queso, Pizza, Tuna Shell, Quattro Formaggio), the Seafood Parisienne. The Oatmeal Choco Bites are crunchy cookie drops that taste so good you'll be amazed that they're not made of all. The bites are made without milk, little egg, with more oats than flour and sugar. It's a healthy alternative to dessert and works well with a cup of coffee.

For those who need to fuel up before their twilight run, don't miss the session's version of champorado, which they call "Mixed champorado" ...a platter of granola with complementary bowls of Belgian chocolate, peanut butter and banana.

More reasons to go: The grab-and-go section. It's perfect for days when you just need to get a quick healthy snack.

The hours: 9 a.m. to midnight on weekdays, and 9 a.m.-2 a.m. on weekends

The digits: 5611998

Sutra Restaurant and Bar

"We want Sutra to be pleasing on the senses," says Sutra's manager to the chairs to the glasses. We want to give our customers the best experience possible. We were change the music depending on the hour," says Gwen Pernal, managing director of Sutra.

Sutra is the newest serene restaurant of the group behind Sisa, Dusit and Aryo. This upscale dining venue serves international, Mediterranean and Pan-Asian food.

Our favorites: We loved the Firecracker Sushi (spicy tuna, mango, scallions, tobiko)— it offered the perfect combination of spice and crunch. The Satya Salad (organic greens, pulled prawns, jicama, pomegranate, green mango, apple, cilantro-plum vinaigrette) was refreshing, the perfect summer meal. The Deep-Fried Lamb Spareribs with Honey-Hoisin Sauce (served with lemon rice couscous tossed and a pesto side) were also delicious—the meat was tender, and the thin, crisp skin was something else.

Bestsellers: The Chilean Seabass, US Prime Rib Eye, Filet Mignon and Prawns.

Other must-orders: Grilled US Diner Scallops (served with mushroom duxelle, spinach sauté, truffle beurre blanc) and the Sweet Sampler (triple chocolate cake roulade, basmati rice cream, fruits)

More reasons to go: Sutra's brings in a DJ on Fridays and Saturdays for extra entertainment.

The hours: 11 a.m. to mid-night on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. from Wednesdays to Saturdays

The digits: 8215565

Roadside resto and 'natural' dining place

TRAVELING FROM Metro Manila, either toward the north or south, the motorist is faced with so many dining options along the highway, most of which beckon to feast but get chaotic and the usual eateries found in the big city.

Recently, we discovered a roadside restaurant with a menu unique to their place (of location), with the flavors and technique reminiscent of delicious home cooking.

In another part of Metro Manila, an adventure of healthy eating has gone a step further, beyond calling their safe offerings "organic."

Casa Covilla

Diversion Road, Tmd. Batangas; tel. 043. 4980005

This is a house converted into a restaurant; thus, it has the homey, welcoming ambiance. The diner will then have an idea of elegant heritage homes, and will eagerly anticipate what's on the menu.

Dining area—spacious, and can spread out to the garden with a gazebo at end overlooking. There is an area for private parties on one side of the hall. Tables and chairs are of heavy wood and ignored well. The wrecking staircase with an evidently carved balustrade leads to second floor where more guests can be accommodated.

Service—Efficient

Staff—Courteous, eager to serve

Suggested orders—People come to this place for a unique (and rare) fish found only in this province—the Maliputo, plus, of course, the Tawilis, two species that are almost extinct. Start the meal with Sinigang na Maliputo; the cook normally serves it with the head, a must. Flavorful element. The fish is then cooked in its milky flavor and starts to the mouth instant. Nothing goes with the dish but some tomatoes, vegetables and a sweating spoil. The bones all the soups served in most restaurants, except, perhaps the Bulalo, another Batangas pride, because, some enemies pass off Tabalo. Ask for Maliputo. Other entrees: Fried Tawilis, dipped in vinegar, and for the connoisseurs, get the Crispy Tadpoles. That combination makes for quite a satisfying meal. Also there, you can only point hands on dessert with Halo-halo, with all the traditional ingredients. This is big, with he ratan bowls and share. You might want a cup of steaming Barako (again), Batangas' coffee after.

Entertainment and services charges are added to the bill. Senior cards are honored.

Rating

Echocafé

Beside Echostore, Alang Avenue Parkway, across Market! Market! in Bonifacio Global City, tel. 8823405

The aim of this café is to promote healthy eating and support local farmers, to encourage sustainable techniques in growing vegetables, fruits and raising livestock. They label their products "natural" against the obviously much abused term "organic."

All products are from farms filled by people who are limited on sustainability.

Dining area—Cozy, with small tables for four. There's limited. It is quiet, conducive to reading while waiting for orders. It is within reach of all "natural" products carried by the store, from fresh vegetables, milk, bread, chicken etc.

One can, therefore, pick up ingredients of the food that has just been enjoyed.

Service—Friendly, quick enough to enjoy a Lemongrass or Pandan tea while waiting to be served.

Staff—Quick to offer menu cards, accommodating.

Suggested orders—They have breakfast offering up to 2 p.m. Those include homemade Chorizong Bulacal, lean ground beef and lean ground pork with garlic and vinegar; chicken Longanisa, homemade served with Beaten Rice Sinangag. Or, try the Poached Organic Eggs with Grilled Spinach; sandwiches like Tofu Burger and Spinach and Cheese Tortilla with Cheese from the pasta selection, salad, soups and sinful (never mind) desserts; the Silhouna Banoffee is really super.

The store has most coffee blends. Puntmayor (served with a Cappuccino) is recommended and service charge will be in the bill. Senior cards are honored.

Rating

'Camaro lumpia, sisig' with foie gras, 'tibuc-tibuc'—from two Kapampangan kitchen greats

Like its creator, the sisig is rustic with a touch of class!

THERE IS more to creating good food than just finding the right mix of the right ingredients. It requires a lot of heart and—old and overused as it may sound—much love.

When you put chef Sau del Rosario in the same room as food historian Lillian Borromeo (who love to share all that she knows about our food and culture), what you get is a roomful of adoring foodies who came for the spread the two Kapampangan kitchen greats have prepared.

The Diamond Hotel recently hosted a successful food festival where chef Sau and author Lillian showcased the best of Pampanga cuisine.

The menu was a mix of the old and new. Some highlights were chef Sau's sensory lumpia and sisig topped with foie gras. Asking Lillian stayed true to tradition and prepared tibuc-tibuc and her legendary San Nicolas cookies.

I asked them what their favorite children were. Chef Sau said it is the pork sisig with foie gras. I asked why and he didn't reply. I think it's because the dish is a representation of his person—a top cut, inside and out. And, like its creator, exists with a touch of class!

Pork Sisig with Foie Gras

½ k each pork cheeks and tongue
¼ k pig ears
2 t-sp water
1 c-sp pineapple juice
1 tsp whole black pepper
2 pc bay leaves
Pig cheeks, ears and tongue in a large pot. Simmer with water and pineapple juice for 1 hour or till tender.

Add bay leaves, peppercorns. Refrigerate overnight.

Grill the meat over charcoal fire for another 5-10 minutes until brown and crispy. Cut into ½ inch cube.

Foie gras:
½ k foie gras (goose/duck liver), sliced

½ k foie gras for topping, sliced for garnish

Pan fry in dry pan, set aside rendered "foie oil."

Sisig:
1 c finely chopped onion
2 c calamansi juice
3-4 siling labuyo or chili peppers
½ c calamansi
1 c minced garlic
4 tbsp margarine
1 tsp whole black pepper, crushed
½ c corn or liquid seasoning
Saute onion and garlic in "foie oil" and margarine until the onions are caramelized. Increase to high heat, add meats.

Pour on the pineapple juice and cook for another 5 minutes. Season with pepper, soya/seasoning and calamansi. Cook 5-10 minutes, stirring.

Top with fried foie gras slices and red chili. Serve with vinegar with calicut and a bit soya on the side.

Best served with white rice and a bottle of beer!

Arbeng Lillian's favorite is tibuc-tibuc, a "labor of love" because of the effort and time needed to prepare that delicacy. According to her, the method "tuc-tuc" sound that emanates from the mixture is what tickles to the olden days claimed to be the sound of their hearthmen beating for their sweethearts. Milagrosa-tice would be washed overnight then stone-pounded, for her practical purposes, cornstarch is used today.

Tibuc-Tibuc

½ c coconut milk
½ c sugar
Dayap or lemon rind
4½ c carabao's milk
Garlic oil
Cinnamon-cornstarch to taste
Annatto or achuete's milk

Add dayap or lemon rind and sugar to taste. Cook over low temperature until thick.

Add a tablespoon of lard oil and stir frequently to avoid burning at the bottom.

Add another tablespoon of oil as needed. Pour in (pa-tibuc) lemon with banana leaves or cut to ground lychee dish, then top with cinnamon.

To two of my favorite people in the world of food, chef Sau and tita Lillian, and to the very competent GM of the Diamond Hotel, Gemma Inumerger, bachos!

Speaking of the Diamond, there are many reasons I love this hotel. the roomies boy views, chef Daniel Buck's black sesame and green tea ice cream flavor trick, silky and luscious, and sold by the plate!; and not the least, the best lumon in Manila—found in the coffee shop, almost distinct than usual, so crisp that it crackles, very warm, and with-out the oil!

It is *Mabuhayng* Saturn Sinead Jr (Call 5283000.)

CHEF Sau del Rosario and Lillian Borromeo's Sisig with Foie Gras

Tacuypang Gulay

Last week's Kitchen Rescue profiled food industry heavyweight Raul Gregorio. Here, he shares a recipe of a dish he says is his answer to *kinche*. If you haven't been to Infanta Nasin Fun Dish in Laguna, by the way, go before school starts. (Call 0921-(-)3068570.)

Delicious with anything grilled or fried!

4 pc cucumber, radish, eggplants, eggplant, sliced
7 okra
4pc tomato, French-ly cut
Kangkong leaves
1 tomato
Boil eggplant, okra, sayote and kangkong.

Peel and shrink slice cucumber, radish and eggplants. Slice tomato in half. Arrange on a plate.

Sauce:
¼ c siling labuyo, chopped
½ c onions and garlic chopped
1 c chopped mangang-hilaw
1/3 tsp fragrant Bulacan
2 c tamarind juice (boil 150 g tamarind in 2½ cups water for 10 minutes, extract juice by squeezing by hand, strain, add 1 tbsp patis)
Blend. Heat sauce over vegetables, overnight or glaze.

Espresso pie

After the sweetness, here are the up and coming chefs. Rustic Carolina and Pierre Yeo of It Just to make an addicting espresso pie, lavishly topped with whipped cream and grated parmesan. (Call 0917-3462008).

They are to the process of fine-tuning the menu of their newly opened restaurant, but from what I've sampled so far, I look forward to it.

'Haemul pageon,' 'japchae,' 'modum jeon'—Korean food in the spotlight

No dessert was served, which made our table wonder if there is such a thing as Korean dessert

IT'S A GENERAL observation by diners that Korean restaurants are so generous, because staff bring out several small dishes as soon as you sit down. Because of that, diners comment that sometimes those dishes are enough to make one full. But what is perceived as appetizers are usually side dishes for the main course.

In the book "Practical Korean Cooking" by Nah Chin Iwan (Hollym Corporation, 2002), these side dishes are part of the Korean table setting. And the classification of the number of side dishes is signified by the word "chop."

If the table setting is called three-chop, it means there are three side dishes to accompany the main course/s, together with the rice, soup and kimchi. One of my dining experiences in Korea had probably eight-nine chop setting, because almost the whole table was filled with those small bowls as soon as we entered a restaurant that specialized in traditional food.

At a preview of at the Korean Food Festival at the InterContinental Manila, the chop included just the pickled spinach (*ganseo namul*). There were three kinds of kimchi (white, radish and spicy pickled cabbage). And then a succession of dishes crowded our table.

Those that were familiar were the *haemul pageon*, an omelet of seafood and spring onions, as well as *japchae*, made of potato noodles flavored with soy and topped with vegetables. Modum jeon was a first encounter—almost like pagoon because it consists of seasoned pancakes made from different ingredients such as fish, kimchi, zucchini and tofu.

Warming effect

Soup was kalbi tang, the Korean version of the Filipino *kaldereta*. The presentation, though, is nearer than the lenonga-and-beef dish of our kalde. It uses kalbi (ang that kept on warm during my first visit to Korea, served in eight mushroom-shaped open metal dome). The warming effect is important in the country that has cold weather most months of the year.

Many homes and restaurants have their fixed hotpot, which helps to keep off the cold but doesn't stop your legs from dangling from sitting on them for more than hour.

Beef barbecue (*pang yeon dalbi*) came soon after, served by itself without the accompanying leaves and sauces that we expected in restaurants here. The star of the beef dishes it is Korean, because several rice dishes are still attached to the bone. Many of the Korean groceries sell this kind of cut—recommended if you want to cook this dish.

And because none dominates the Korean table, there was also *galbi-chim*, beef stew that served me as my introduction to this cooking and is still my favorite. Naturally, we lacked the rice that a stew needs, but it came as part of the lifestyle; rice topped with vegetables, meat and chili sauce. That isn't a particular favorite of mine, but it is with my children, especially when served from a heated bowl.

The only seafood dish that day was stir-fried squid, red with chili. In Korea, we were told that was less immersion now seafood because it is expensive, but octopus is found by most diners.

Rice cakes

No dessert was served, which made our table wonder if there is such a thing as Korean dessert. The entire cookbook mentioned above listed several rice cakes like our kakanin, candied vegetables, sesame cakes, honey-coated pear.

Somewhat contained the sweet rice drink (*shik ye*) made of glutinous rice rendered sweet with malt powder and boiled in water, sugar and pine nuts.

The promotional leaflet said that during the festival (done together with 48th Restaurant found in Makati), there will be

STIR-FRIED squid (*ojingeo bokeum*)

BEEF stew (*galbijim*)

free flowing persimmon punch (*sukwajeung*) for the guests. Maybe this sweet concoction will appease the sweet tooth.

But for our sweet tooth that day, we repaired to the dessert buffet made mainly of Western cakes and pies, plus the fresh fruits of the Cafe. Reopens where this festival will be held until May 27 (for reservations, call 793-7000.)

Sun Leong, the resident Chinese chef from Singapore who left his wife, Forest, remembered many foodies but you will be back on May 24-25.

He will conduct a cooking demo with lunch and will cook for a degustation dinner with wine pairing. (*Gail Mabuti Shangri-La at IT, 7300303.*)

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

What are you waiting for? Enroll now! Classes start in June 2012

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LPU

The Maya Kitchen is turning Japanese this June!

MAIN COURSE

Wouldn't it be nice to learn good Japanese food and cook in your own home? Time to let The Maya Kitchen show you how to make authentic & fusion Japanese dishes from Chef Saiji Kamura, Chef Partner of Saji Restaurant. Learn how to whip up Japanese classics such as Tempura Udon, Ten Tendon Donburi, Spicy Salmon Maki, Wagyu Fried Rice and Oyakodon Maki on June 9, 9am-12pm.

HANDS-ON CERTIFICATE COURSES

FUNDAMENTALS OF BAKERY PRODUCTION
Wednesdays, May 09-30 & June 1 (9am-3pm)
Thursdays, June 10-14 (Block 5), 9am-3pm
Wednesdays, June 6, 13, 20 & 27 (Part 1) 10-3:30pm

BASIC CULINARY
Wednesdays, June 6-27 (9am-5:30pm)
Thursdays, June 7-28 (9am-5:30pm)
Wednesdays, June 6, 13, 20 & 27 (Part 1) 10-3:30pm

CAKE DECORATING (Basic & Advanced)
June 07-28 (Block 4), 9am-3pm

LIFESTYLE SHORT COURSES

GOOD FOOD HIT WORKSHOP (Chef Jacob Ty Lucman Tagle)
May 28 (Part 1) 9am-12nn

SHAWARMA & KEBAB (June 9 (Part 1) 10 - 3:30 pm

For more information on other courses offered log on to www.themayakitchen.com

or e-mail us at info@themayakitchen.com

or call us at 8-Maya Ave. (Formerly Road), Makati City or call (02) 8810-0000 / (02) 8810-0011

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The Maya Kitchen

GERRY'S GRILL FAVORITE. Inihaw na Pusit (Grilled Squid) tops the annual Mr. Favorite Server's Menu that's coming on board 3,000 guests joined the survey at Gerry's branches nationwide. Closely following the seafood fare are Crispy Pata, Bare-Kare, Sinigang na Hipon and Beef Kaldereta. Gerry's recently opened its 51st branch in Saraboan Al Sadd in Qatar is set to open next month. For more details, log on to www.gerrysgrill.com.

Korean resto opens branch south of Manila

BBQ CHICKEN HOUSE recently opened a branch at the town ground floor of the Garden in Alabang Town Center. Just like its maiden branch at Greenhill 1, the second store of the international Korean barbecue restaurant chain offers authentic Korean food, ambiance and experience.

Meals begin with complimentary Korean tea and side dishes such as boiled sweet potatoes, quail eggs, pickled vegetables and the quintessential kimchi. Dalgona are premium cuts of beef marinated in a combination of ingredients that enhance their flavor.

Must try is Bulgogi Brothers Special, a combination of two popular bulgogi—the Dwyang Dyie and Gwang Yang Style in house specialty with assorted bulgogi seasoned to perfection.

Other must-try dishes include Kimchi Jjigae (spicy stew made with spiced kimchi, pork and tofu), Jjamppong (fried noodles), Haemul Sundgyeobbokki (fried dumpling with seafood and served with spicy sauce), and Dwaeji Bulgogi (grilled spareribs marinated in soy sauce).

TEXAS Roadhouse Grill's Prawn Skewers.

Texas Roadhouse Grill

Texas Roadhouse Grill offers Summer Skewers that are delicious and filling.

If you want your traditional meat on the grill, then try Steak Skewers, two hefty barbecue sticks of perfectly grilled steak. Dip it in cranberry sauce and bite into the sweetness of grilled asparagus. Order it with Seasonal Steam Veg.

For something light and fresh, go for Prawn Skewers—six pieces tiger prawns lightly basted with sweet chili glaze served on the side. Enjoy it with a squall of lemon, grilled asparagus and a bed of Texas rice. Drinker Skewers is marinated and grilled with a unique cola, served with barbecue sauce for dipping, grilled asparagus and Texas rice.

For dessert, pop down with Mighty Oreo Mud Pie and share the layers of rich coffee and chocolate ice cream with Snickers candy pieces atop crushed Oreo cookie crust drizzled with chocolate sauce.

There's also Buy 1 Take 1 Mojitos for only P175. Try Mojito the Rare—quenching first taste is a must-onward. Sunday-Thursday.

Texas Roadhouse Grill is at Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig (0947.651), and U.P. Diliman, Bridges Corner (0928.710).

French Baker

The French Baker offers shakes and beans split for summer. Healthy fruit shakes are available in the following flavors: mango, strawberry and chocolate. The French Baker banana split, served on a platter, is made up of three shake ice cream topped with chocolate sauce, strawberry syrup plus whipped cream and brownies and almond tile cookie.

Crepes and a variety of sandwiches are also available.

DINING OUT

Bringing Pinoy cuisine to Memphis

WORD OF MOUTH

Sorsdy Ercot

MEMPHIS, Blue Town, home of the blues and the best barbecues in the world—Texas and I are here because I was invited as participant in a grand chef for the celebration of Memphis in May 2012, as the city salutes and pays tribute to the Philippines.

Memphis in May is an annual celebration, with various activities taking place all over the city. There's the music festival, the international festival, the symphony concert, etc., all held on the banks of the Mississippi River overlooking Arkansas.

The Philippines is the guest country this year. Cultural shows and exhibits from home are featured here, such as Filipino art, dance, textiles, minister, theater and more. Claudia Tiang and I were chosen to cook a Filipino dinner for locals to experience.

Nervous and excited

Claudia's successful dinner was last week. Mine is today. I'm a little nervous and a bit excited! I will be cooking my own recipes which will use authentic Filipino ingredients and nothing that has any western ingredients like cheese, tomato sauce, etc.

On our way here, we drove from Vancouver to Seattle to take our flight from Seattle to Memphis. We got to the US border, the immigration officers asked where we were headed. I told him where and, with a poker face, he quickly replied that he couldn't allow me to enter—because he had to take my place!

He was obviously a foodie envious of my good fortune. "Oh don't leave here on empty stomach!" he said. He spoiled us with an overview of his amazing dining experiences in Memphis. He talked about the must-amazing ribs, both beef and pork, and the garlic shrimps which he said costs $30 a basket and served with a pint of beer and garlic bread.

"But some newspaper on a table, dump the shrimps on it, and with your beer and garlic bread, you're all set!," he said.

We were both so excited for me and the event. For a moment, I wondered how the car behind us must be freaking out thinking they had chemical lame with a silent effect. If they only knew. After chatting up, he left with the guy we eventually went through, leaving him with his good memories of great Memphis barbecue.

Tailored

As soon as we reached dawn at Memphis airport, we were met by a cool lady, Brigid, who whisked us off, in her top-down Mustang convertible, to the tailoid of the five-day barbecue competitions, where the Philippines had its entry with Claudia's fare as one of the 200 contenders.

Chef Carlos Dingding of Marco Polo's sea Rosen is her this event. The lechon was delicious but, as I always like to say when I don't rate in bad, delicious. "Whipping is not enough," I said.

Once at the barbecue, I was so overwhelmed that I didn't know where to start. There were lines of creatively decorated booths selling ribs, various sausages, shrimp, turkey drumstick, funnel cakes (these are like fried strings of donuts sprinkled with powdered sugar), deep-fried Oreos, sandwiches, ice cream, more cones and lots and lots of beer. It was fun and, of course, a cooking event!

We were met with the distinctly happy and warm Southern hospitality Memphian chefs are very proud of their barbecue and are generous to share. At one stand, I discovered I was a chef from one of texas, chefs Hugo and John invited me to sample their entries.

Central Barbecue has been a consistent winner in this yearly event and I can see why. The ribs and pulled pork are roasted and seasoned to perfection. A special kind of pulled common to the south, not the kind you'll find in Home Depot. Corned barbecue is mildly sweet and a touch spicy, the texture is perfect, like meat, juicy to the bone.

And the beer handed to me opened my eyes to the perfect combination of cold beer and ribs, not that I'll ever need it.

The Memphians have to be the kindest and most hospitable people I've met in this country. there is definitely something to be said about that southern charm.

They were equally amazed by the delicious and support the local. Pinoy community has been getting there, too. There have they encountered the same solid response from any culture, they said. It made me proud.

Best chicken joint

Sunday noon, we walked for about 10 minutes to the warm sun for our Memphis cab to sample one of the best Fried Chicken joints in town. As soon as this' Fried Chicken opened at 11, all the tables were taken and they already had a line. We were there at 11:45 for lunch and waited for another half hour to be seated, but all that was worth the wait.

The place looked like a real joint with its jointed tables, uncushioned aluminum chairs, beer neon signs hanging on the walls and pictures of chicken everywhere. The perfect ambience for a fried chicken joint.

Fried in peanut oil (contrary to the belief of many that the best ones are fried in pork fat), this fried chicken gets better and better with every bite. With eight pieces between Nina and myself, we had orders of coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad and fried okra.

This is the type of food one dreams about. Crude, and syrup tangy. The skin is chewy, crunchy, the outside-in-and-all and the inside nicely tender and moist. I ended my meal with homemade pecan pie... good but nothing overwhelming. I cannot help but compare it to this place before we leave.

We have a few more days to explore the culture and cuisine. We still need to see Graceland and a few museums like Human Rights Museum. We've made a few friends and we look forward to hosting them in Manila.

I've already picked up a few interesting recipe ideas for my baby wanesses, Wooden Spoon, and I'm thinking I might put Cheese Cake Queens. I will keep you posted on the rest of my food explorations.

Happy eating!

Visit sandydeas.blogspot.com, Twitter @sandydeas

THE CENTURIA MEDICAL MAKATI
Guide to health and wellness

THE TRUTH ABOUT APPETIZERS

The reality about our eating habits is that while we're usually mindful of what we decide to have for our main course, we're also a bit careless when we munch on appetizers, often oblivious of their dietary effects. In a feature published in the medical site www.medicinenet.net, Joan Salge Blake, RD of the American Dietetic Association offers her thoughts on popular appetizers.

SIMPLE: CHEESE FRIES – Two ounce appetizers can "take over the meal," Blake warns. "Some of them have more calories than the main entree." One offender is cheese fries – french fries with melted cheese on top. Nutritional info includes Sonic Ole Cheese Fries with chili: a 6-ounce serving has 510 calories, 190 g of fat, and a whole day's worth of sodium (2,300 mg).

SAFE: CRAB CAKES – Blake recommends eating appetizers or combo meals that are made with lean meat, fish or vegetables. Steamed shrimp cocktails are appealing way to get more seafood into your diet. Served with cocktail sauce, a typical order has about 200 calories, 1g of fat, and 800mg sodium.

SIMPLE: FRIED CHICKEN – Like many forms of seafood, meats are not exceptions. But when you bread it and fry it in oil, you're delivering it with calories and fat. A typical restaurant portion can range from 400 calories, 14 g of fat, and 1,200 mg of sodium – not including any sauce.

SAFE: SHRIMP COCKTAIL – Shrimp contains very little saturated fat and is generally low in calories. It's also a refreshing source of omega-3 fatty acids, which promote healthy blood vessels. To keep the calorie count low, stick to lemon-based sauce. A serving of dining with cocktail sauce has about 120 calories.

SIMPLE: CHILI CHEESE NACHOS – They may be a festive way to start an evening out, but nachos and cheese dip are among the least healthy appetizer choices. Let us when order yourself, and you'll take in 1,000 calories, 60 g of fat, and 4,000 mg of sodium – nearly twice the recommended daily limit for sodium.

SAFE: TUNA TARTARE WITH SALSA – This is a low-way to break many vegetables into your diet. You can skip it when peppers worth of "chips" and stay under 100 calories.

SIMPLE: CLAM CHOWDER – Clam chowder sounds like it should be healthy, especially as a way to make it some extra seafood. Unfortunately, the New England variety is made with a fattening, heavy cream base. A restaurant bowl contains about 160 calories, 14 g of fat, and 1,100 mg of sodium.

LIGHT: MINESTRONE SOUP – Hearty in flavor, a bowl contains only 100 calories, and 1,100 mg of sodium. Blake suggests ordering a cup instead of a bowl.

SIMPLE: CHICKEN WINGS – A typical appetizer portion of buffalo chicken wings has more than 700 calories and 40 g of fat. Ranch sauce adds another 200 calories and 20 g of fat. "That's 900 calories and 60 g of fat – just to mention more than 2,000 mg of sodium," Blake says. Instead, order a salad with

SAFE: LETTUCE WRAPS – Lean meat plus 300 calories and 7 g of fat. If you order this appetizer at a restaurant, be sure to share, a plate of four wraps has a total of 600 calories, 14g of fat and 800 mg sodium.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Edita Evonne G. Velarde

Whitney's swan song to debut on iTunes

NEW YORK—Whitney Houston's final recording is being released. The song, "Celebrate," is a duet with Jordin Sparks from Houston's last movie, a remake of the film "Sparkle." The song debuted Monday on Ryan Seacrest's website and will be available on iTunes on June 5. Sparks performed a tribute to Houston on Sunday night at the Billboard Music Awards, singing "I Will Always Love You" on Houston's daughter Bobbi Kristina-styled wavy locks. Houston's death in February at age 48 came on the singer had been attempting a comeback and had finished filming "Sparkle." AP

Chicken Pork Adobo the EasiYo way

EASIYO

Delicious! Super! Woah! Easy!

Unthinkable for Zoren to work with BB

BB SAMSAMSAMI

ELLYN Valtorta and Manuel Rodrigues will be leaving for the United States to attend TV5's grand launch overseas. Guest-relators will be pinch-hitting for them in "Opamesa."

Last Saturday, Manuel told me that BB Gonzalez-Quijano's wayward relationship for her in the show while she's away for Manuel

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

trained Zoren. "OK lang ba sa 'yo to work with BB?"

Zoren was dumbfounded. "From the look on his face, I think it's unthinkable for him to be seen of next to BB (formerly Bea Alonzo Padilla, ex of Zoren's wife Kristine)! Zoren just for the sake of the show. Even if Zoren is professional enough, the BB issue is something too personal for public consumption.

Undecided but interested

"Sue Annabelle Ramos is still undecided whether she will give in to the clamor of her kabalangay in Cebu to run in the next elections. "Daole nine hasi nilo ng pagbalhag. Sama na nine ang political dynasty dun," she said. "Siang dinaing ko sa higa ning pulitika, 'di ako sanay. Kailangan ko lang kasagala labay ng kanag-anak ko. Asin 'di ako labisi pabor na ta-tumbler ako' ... Si Richard Gutierrez nga sinoba ako na bahin sa Tedtoro niya anang mahimo na haka tanambe ako. Kailangan nanda pamanay labay ng anak ni pamilya ko bago ako mag-decide. Wala ing ako mag-arol kang kailangan. Madali lang 'yan kasi interesado ako sa gusto kong makatabang sa Cebu."

ENTERTAINMENT 31

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SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CRINAT

THIS GOING TODAY You have strong opinions and many interests, most of which are constantly changing. You are interested about what I do, but you're unsure whether to offer help, refuse to offer help or offer help only because of current events. You are articulate and express yourself well and are not afraid to do so. In the year ahead, you will have some more fascinating than will be safe. (Jan 20 to Feb. 18)

Scholastic at the Class: write Susan Wiseley, Writer, Harlan's first Editor, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the next three weeks, you'll have an interesting flurry in job to offers, especially in creative and technology. It also will be an especially good time to write, read and study.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't be surprised if one minute of heightening short-living mental power (Jan. 20 to 21) leads to the financial ruin of the entire.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today (March) seems like one step in time for several weeks. You will strongly open your interest in their discoveries and short-lived.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): In the month ahead, your ability to research in used out hidden aspects will be an advice. You will have a strong motivation to find what you're looking for.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Career is the most social in the month ahead. Meetings and chance encounters will be important. Be open to ideas and ideas will surprise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Events, parents, teachers and more will be interesting your relationship skills in the professional realm. Suddenly, you're really inspiring!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You'll enjoy study in any kind in the next few weeks. Your communication is more creative and talk to people from different countries and other cultures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You'll be pleased to know that you'll have the patience to clean up a mess or get figure into about insurance matters, taxes, debt and financial security. This motivation will last for several weeks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today/discovery moves to help organize your days ahead. It will help for the next several weeks. This will especially be true with interesting discussions with partners and close friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You can expect to take a more active role at approximately your job in the next few weeks. You will want to know more about practical details and how things practically work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Make sure to set aside time to update, playful activities with children, sports events and parties in the next few weeks. You feel playful, available and broadcast.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Family discussions will be more frequent and more involved in the next few weeks. Expect that something has to be fulfilled.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Elmo Cason

6		7	9		8	1		2
	4						7	
		2				8		
7			3		4			6
9			8		2			5
		1				3		
	5						2	
4		9	2		1	7		8

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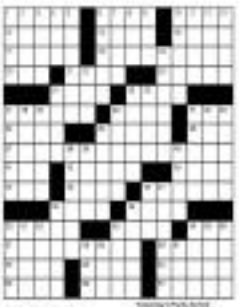

2 back to back concerts

GRAMMY-WINNING jazz trumpeter Chris Botti

MICHELLE Brauch (left) and Jojo

MIGTIME: New Kids on the Block and Backstreet Boys

BOYZONE on the Block and Backstreet Boys reunited only billed as HIGHTIME) will perform back-to-back on June 3 at SM Mall of Asia arena.

MIGHT opened early success on the late 1980s and early 1990s with the release of its second album, "Hangin' Tough," which received several hit singles, such as the title track, "If Dis Getting You Down," and "Cover Girl." After breaking up in 1994, the band reunited in 2009.

BSB rose to fame with its self-titled international debut album (1996), followed by "Backstreet's Back" (1997) and its debut album in the U.S.

It released many hit shows with "Millennium" (1999) and "Black & Blue" (2000).

After a three-year hiatus, it regrouped in 2006 and released "Never Gone," followed by "Unbreakable" (2007) and "Black In" (2009).

Call 471-2222 or visit www.smdkidsstore.com for more.

Michelle Brauch, Jojo

WEGate presents American singer-songwriters Michelle Brauch and Jojo back-to-back on June 7 at Grand Ampitheater Gateway Hall 8 at Cubao Araneta Center.

Brauch released two top-selling albums, "The Spirit Room" (2001) and "Hotel Paper" (2003). She won a Grammy award with Carlos Santana for best pop collaboration with vocals on "The Game of Love."

Jojo released her self-titled debut album in 2006, which spawned the hit, 1 single "Leave (Get Out)." At age 13 she became the youngest solo artist to have a No. 1 single in the United States.

Call 911-3888.

Chris Botti at Resorts World

Studio High 103.9 brings back Grammy-winning trumpeter Chris Botti for a one-night performance on June 19 at Resorts World Manila's Newport Performance Arts Theater.

After a by-invitation show which formally launched Studio High 103.9 on the Greenhills Students Walk, in November last year, Botti returns with an all-new repertoire, plus a few fresh faces in his band including singer-songwriter Jem Rollins.

Hip-jazz singer Richard Bibb and "Glee" thespian will open the concert.

Dubbed as the biggest-selling American jazz instrumental artist, Botti has gained fans for developing a unique and signature fusion sound. His dexterity as a trumpeter has seen him sharing the stage with music greats like Sting, Brad Mehldau, Steven Tyler, Yo Yo Ma, John Mayer, Michael Bublé and Josh Groban, and collaborating with legends such as Frank Sinatra, Joni Mitchell, Aretha Franklin, Herbie Hancock, Andrea Bocelli, Herbie

(more in, B6)

Unthinkable for Zoren to work with BB

from page B1

Will she give up managing Vivian? If said reborn she enters politics and wins? "Either jol (it's getting) my message for," she said. "Time management ding naman 'yon. Ang issues ko pa rin talaga 'yon. Kung meron ko pa rin pinaka-ano ay pagtulong ang mga tulad ko, parang ako pagsasalita ng mga tulad ko, parang ako pagsasalita ng mga Cebuano." I can just imagine what a real Tito Boy campaign ourhor will be.

Claudine's apology

Pro-Gradine Barretto sisters is not apologetic to the Cebu Bodi's staff, or sees it just a desperate measure for damage control. If left-case, the affair should also apologize for its chaos, comings.

As for Claudine and Raymart's effort for a reward to whoever can present a video of what transpired in Asia prior to their annulling Mely Tuviles. It's quite unfortunate. Knowing the Filipinos' penchant to picture-taking and video-recording, that video would have surfaced on YouTube by now.

Perhaps nothing embarrassing took place before their assault, that's why nobody bothered to document it.

The Falls brothers have been very vocal about their support for Kim. Will the Barretta sisters do the same for Claudine?

Mo broadcasters

John Lloyd Cruz is thankful for the ones that Dadalin—the company behind popular brands of headache and

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: STREETDANCE 2
2: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
3: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
4: THE RAVEN
5: THE AVENGERS/DARK SHADOWS
6: MEN IN BLACK 3
7: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

GREENBELT 1

1: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

GREENBELT 3

1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
3: THE RAVEN
4: STREETDANCE 2
5: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
3: STREETDANCE 2
4: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING (SAT)
5: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

ANNA GRACE OSRO

1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
3: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
4: STREETDANCE 2

MARIKINA

1: MEN IN BLACK 3
2: MEN IN BLACK (3D)
3: STREETDANCE 2
4: 21 JUMP STREET

MARKET! MARKET!

1: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
2: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING
3: THE AVENGERS/DARK SHADOWS
4: STREETDANCE 2
5: MEN IN BLACK 3
6: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
2: THE RAVEN
3: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
4: STREETDANCE 2
5: THE AVENGERS/DARK SHADOWS
6: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING
7: MEN IN BLACK 3

ARIBEYA

1: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
2: MEN IN BLACK 3
3: STREETDANCE 2
4: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

HARBOR POINT

1: SOON TO OPEN
2: SOON TO OPEN
3: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)
4: MEN IN BLACK 3 (3D)

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PALAWAN

Why Disneyland is special

BACK STORY

Love Yaforget

AH, YES, my daughter has turned 6 years old. Instead of having mystery, Bob and I decided to take friends to the hospital phone and the Disneyland, on Lantau Island in Hong Kong.

I've written about Disneyland quite a few times before, but each time we visit, it proves even more magical for us. Perhaps seeing it all through our daughter's eyes is what makes it extra special.

She loved the Winnie the Pooh ride that took her through the Hundred Acre Wood, as well as Philharmagic that gave her a 3D view of some of Disney's most famous music.

She also enjoyed The Golden Mickeys, an awards show-type presentation featuring some of Disney's heroes and romantic figures, and The festival of the Lion King, which is about the legend of King Simba, complete with fire jugglers and ballet-dancing birds.

Nicole wasn't too hot on the Mad Hatter's Tea Cups ride, and Rob unveiled a altogether Homered, I—along with Disneyland traveled on the rocket Buzz Lightyear and his friend Sarah Lennox to have playtime for the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra—gave the night a spin.

We weren't able to ride any of the outdoor rides; there were thunderstorms in the evenings, so everything we did was either indoor or indoors. But the weather cleared up enough on the evening, which was when a glorious outdoor show would begin.

Our little group assembled on Main Street, for enough paper from Sleeping Beauty's Castle to get a good view of what was to come: Fireworks!

For about 15 minutes, fireworks blasted and danced above the castle, illuminating the night sky. It was the perfect way to end a fun-filled day.

The weather cleared up in the evening; a glorious outdoor show began

Happy birthday, little princess!

Food capital

Resorts Hong Kong is one of the world's foremost food capitals. (Not to anyone's, we couldn't leave without sampling some its cuisine. One restaurants is a place we frequently visit, which the other is a new one that, after some Bob-initiated internet research, we decided to try.

Tasting menu

In Shanghai (yes, this pic is how-true) has been one of our favorites since 2008, although great for dinners, it also boasts more upscale fare.

If you're undecided with what to try, check out one of their tasting menus. You get a sampling of some popular items, just enough to satisfy your palates. This is what we ended up doing and were so happy be it. For blonde enough, we ordered ginger noodles with minced pork.

Best runners

Ippudo HK is one of the two Hong Kong branches of a Japanese ramen restaurants, which has spread from Fukuoka in the rest of the world (with branches in New York City, Seoul and Singapore).

Thankfully that branch was only a five-minute walk from our hotel. We picked something slightly spicy and officially the world, with tonkotsu, little noodles, flavorful pork bits and sliced mushrooms.

Without question, this was the best bowl of ramen I've ever had. I can look forward to visits to Singapore [and this year, and New York City early next year, so for sure I'll go to Ippudo there!

Shameless plug

Miss Jean, I'll be in "Nickelodeon Broadway" this week's stay which good I'll be doing, but I'm very excited. Some performances this show's final weekend are yours truly. Since requests, Nicole Volkmer and Rachel Alejandro. Congratulations to Upstate for a great run.

Adamin. Production will start in mid of one of the most awesome shows to ever come to Broadway "Back of Ages." It will also soon be released as a feature film starring Tom Cruise, Julianne Hough, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Alec Baldwin, Russell Brand, Hailee Steinfeld, Dianna Agron and Diego Boneta as a cast.

The Manila production of the stage musical will star Nyoy Volante, Vina Morales, Mel Ayusa, Alex Seguerra, Jamie Wilson, Jed Pangan, Sheer Reyes and Judy Ann Santos. Chet Anteporo is Gloria Glenda.

It opens June 15 at the Globe F Bonifacio Auditorium of SUBIC Plaza, Makati.

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12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
MEN IN BLACK 3 DIGITAL 3-D/CINEMA 3 - RDTR 11(1) - PG13
10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:30
STREETDANCE 3-D (IN 3D) - SP
1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
MEN IN BLACK (IN 3D) - PG13
12:30, 5:00*9:30, 8:15, 10:30
1:30, 4:15, 9:25
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2 MEN IN BLACK 3 - 3D
NCD
2:00, 4:30, 8:30
3 MEN IN BLACK 3
PG-13
1:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30
4 STREET DANCE 3-D
SP
2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
CLEARANCE DAY
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WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

2 back to back ...

From page D1

Simcock, David Foster and Natalie Cole.

He has been nominated for five Grammy awards and sold over three million albums to date, but his ground-breaking 1990 debut album "First Flight," to his latest anthology dubbed "Improvisions."

Both's concert will benefit the Young Musicians Development Foundation, and is being presented by Globe Telecoms and Dream Talent Manila.

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3 STREETDANCE 3D
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5 MEN IN BLACK 3D
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Men in Black 3 in 3D
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1 Street Dance 2
2 Men in Black 3
3 The Avengers
4 Men in Black 3
5 Dark Shadows
6 Men in Black 3 in 3D
7 Men in Black 3
LUCKY CHINATOWN CINEMAS
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